

The History of Pukekura Park

1921-1949



The Horton Years

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Written and compiled by Alan Metcalfe

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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 we decided to use it was optional.

Once I 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 third in a series of books about the Park and was more challenging than the others. Whereas the previous books used a lot of information from Papers Past, this time-period is void of Papers Past content for the local newspapers, hence many hours were spent at the Puke Ariki Research Centre thumbing through the *Taranaki Herald*.

This publication covers the history of Pukekura Park from 1921 until 1949, for most of this period Thomas Horton was the superintendent. He had a lasting impact on the nature of the park.

Each year contains an overview of events for the year and a selection of newspaper articles. Some of the photos included were provided by Warwick Horton, Thomas Hortons' son, who I had the pleasure of meeting while preparing this book. Warwick spent his childhood living in the Park and has many fond memories of this time.

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 / COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1921—1949

Robert Clinton Hughes
Harris Ford
Mrs C. H. Burgess
C. E. Bellringer
H. Dempsey
H. V. S. Griffiths
W. C. Weston
W. F. Short
A. T. Moore
A. S. Brooker
F. Amooore
J. McLeod
F. E. Wilson
G. M. Spence
F. Parker
R. W. Tate
V. C. Davies
E. King
E. R. C. Gilmour
E. J. Carr
E. Jackson
N. Johnson
F. S. Varnham
L. Lovell
H. V. McCready
D. F. Saxton
E. Lippiatt
A. B. Scanlan
M. J. Neville
K. Ward
Mrs. J. Davie
G. Huthnance
P. E. Stainton (Secretary/ Treasurer)

Thomas Horton – Superintendent 1924-1949

Thomas Horton was born on the 18th of October 1867, in Tysoe, Warwickshire, England. He came to New Zealand with his family in 1874 aboard the sailing ship the Crusader, during the voyage he celebrated his seventh Birthday. The family settled in Rangiora.

He married his first wife, Sarah in November 1888 and they had nine children, six boys and three girls. Unfortunately, Sarah died in 1917. In 1931 he married his second wife Mary in New Plymouth and they had one son Warwick. Horton by then was in his mid-sixties.

He made his entrance into the nursery business at the age of 11 when he started a 7-year apprenticeship with W.E. Ivory (Currently Riverside Horticulture) nurseryman Rangiora. During his apprenticeship he attended night school conducted by Mr. Elderton an eminent English scholar, receiving his principal botanical and general education. As a young man he played the Cornet in the salvation Army brass band and was band master for a while.

When he was 21, for health reasons he accepted a position of foreman at John Goddard's nursery Havelock North and at the age of 27 accepted a job as manager of Fernleigh Nurseries at Mangatainoka, near Pahiatua where his job was to establish an orchard on newly felled bush. He needed to clear stumps, level the land and plant. Though hard work it was satisfying. But after three years he was given notice to cease operations, with the company still owing him several hundred pounds. Horton with a family of three children was struggling to make ends meet so ended up doing odd jobs, gardening and pruning etc.

Then he had some good luck, a friend offered to sell him 2 acres of newly felled bush, on easy terms, in the 40-mile bush at Pahiatua close to where a railway station was going to be built. Also close by was a railway yard full of thousands of totara sleepers which had to be adzed and bored. Horton put in a price for doing this and spent many months working 8 hours a day doing this and then four hours each evening stumping his land. When his land was ready, he planted vegetables which he sold to the many railway workers. After two years he had paid for his land and bought a further five acres.

A chance encounter one day with Prime Minister, Richard Seddon while on his land stumping would prove very fortuitous. Seddon after seeing how industrious he was offered to help him in any way he could. Before embarking on a trip to Australia, Seddon gave Horton a letter of introduction which opened up many doors. Seddon insisted he see the premiers of the states he visited which proved very fruitful.

In 1898, when he set up "Premier Nurseries" Pahiatua, his family of children had grown to five. The nursery grew large quantities of hedge and shelter trees with 75,000 plants being advertised but needed to expand to keep up with demand. In 1902 he advertised 600,000 plants. Horton was a prolific advertiser, and in the six years from opening Premier Nurseries, he posted more than 3000 substantial newspaper advertisements.

By 1905 he had 24 acres, employed 28 men and in the same year he purchased 20 acres of the famous Frimley Estate near Hastings where he established Horton's Frimley Nurseries whilst also maintaining his business at Pahiatua. By 1907 he had 85 acres, not only was his business and staff growing rapidly but also his global reputation. By 1910 he employed a permanent staff of 97 men, had seven travellers and had established agencies in various parts of New Zealand and abroad.

At Frimley his principal study was the growing and cultivation of pedigree fruit trees and he sent millions of these to fruit growing districts in not only New Zealand but also Australia, the Argentine and South Africa. Horton did a lot of pioneering work and catalogued no fewer than 700 varieties of apples alone.

Every year from 1899 to 1917 he visited Australia, exploring all the commercial orchards and fruit tree nurseries searching for new outstanding varieties.

In 1910 he accepted an invitation from the government of Paraguay to give advice on fruit culture and also travelled extensively in Argentina. He saw the trade possibilities that existed in South America and established a Buenos Aires agency through which he would distribute hundreds of thousands of fruit trees.

He revisited South America in 1914 and at Buenos Aires staged a comprehensive show of his various kinds of fruit. As a result he received many big orders for trees. Unfortunately, before the orders could be filled war broke out, and New Zealand ships that had previously called regularly into Buenos Aires and Montevideo were being diverted to other routes. To keep faith with his numerous South American clients he chartered a ship. The ship left Napier in 1915 flying Horton's own house flag bearing the slogan "Horton's Trees Grow". However, the cost made it impossible to continue trading with South America and eventually trade was abandoned.

While at Frimley he also developed an orchard of 106 acres in Nelson, here concentrating on varieties of apples suitable for the export trade. In 1902 Thomas Horton was a foundation member of the Horticultural Trade Association of New Zealand. In 1903 during the early days of the export apple industry Thomas Horton was appointed to the pomologist board to give advice on the best varieties of apple to plant in various parts of the country. The board decided to confine the number of varieties to twelve. Three years later he went to England and earned a Diploma at the Royal Horticultural Society and while there he won the championship of Great Britain judged by the Government pomologist, to be the best collection comprising 200 dishes of fresh fruit.

Besides his trips to England, South America and Australia he also made three world tours collecting new and rare plants he thought might be useful in New Zealand.

Thomas Horton was a foundation member of the Horticultural Trade Association of NZ in 1902.

Although Horton had been extremely successful, because of circumstances beyond his control he found himself in financial difficulties and in August 1922 he begrudgingly handed over his affairs to the Official Assignee declaring himself bankrupt. He wrote a letter to a meeting of creditors explaining his downfall, and an extract from that letter shows clearly how unfortunate Horton was.

"In 1909 I was worth £20,000. In 1911 I bought my Tasman Estate for which I paid cash. I immediately started improvements and cleared the land and 90 acres in orchard, whilst the balance of 16 acres was sown in grass for horse paddocks. Believing

there was a great future for the export apple industry, I spared no expense to bring this orchard to perfection and to make it a successful commercial concern. In 1914 the unfortunate war started and tree planting practically stopped. Two of my sons and thirty-eight men of our staff went to war, thus our staff of practical men was seriously depleted. I was at this time urged by the Horticultural department to continue and even increase the propagation of fruit trees, as the policy of the Government would be to put many of our returned men on to the orchards. Believing that large numbers of trees would be required we propagated extensively and with such a depleted staff we had to pay high wages for experts to do the work. After producing large stocks of trees planting orchards for returned men was abandoned by the Government and not a single tree was purchased by them.

Prior to the war I had established an excellent business connection with South America and our income from there was fairly considerable. Very valuable orders continued to come to us from there during the early years of the war but as all of our shipping was diverted from South American ports, we were unable to execute these orders. We were thus compelled to destroy about 1,500,000. Our losses from these causes were estimated to be at least £75,000 and under the circumstances we could not pay dividends and so the whole of my capital invested in the firm has not earned me one penny since 1914. To keep my orchard going at Tasman I had to run up an overdraft at the bank. Periodically I sold portions of my estate so as to reduce my overdraft and in 1920 I sold my home and grounds for this purpose. I made an effort before this to dispose of my Tasman Estate but did not succeed.

During 1917 I had a good deal of sickness in my family and my wife was for some time in a private hospital and after a very painful operation and much suffering she died. Soon after my wife's death I had to go into hospital for an operation and was laid aside from active business for some time. In addition to this expense I was bringing up and educating a family of six sons and three daughters. In 1919 I made a very desperate effort to get back a great deal of lost trade and launched a great advertising campaign and sent out travellers amongst all our old clients, excellent business resulted, but just as we were in the middle of our delivery season the railway strike took place and it was impossible to deliver our goods in time for that planting season. In 1920 I booked up record business in Australia and was about to make an extensive sale of our surplus trees to the Government of NSW for planting on returned soldiers' settlements, when an "Order in Council" was issued by the Commonwealth Government absolutely prohibiting the importation of any tree, plant or fruit into Australia from New Zealand."

To make matters worse New Zealand suffered a mini depression in 1922. Following his bankruptcy Horton was left with his car and £50 worth of furniture and little else.

After a short spell of travelling he found himself in New Plymouth starting at Pukekura Park in August 1924. His intention was to stay at the park only one year but ended up remaining twenty-five years during which time he made his mark.

One of his first notable actions was the planting of Kauri, Totara and Rimu up the pathway now named "Horton walk". Between 1926 and 1928 he faced the challenge of creating the fernery. Due to the massive amounts of earth dug out of the banks of the hillside to form the Fernery he had the foresight to simultaneously create Stainton Dell and Fred Parker lawn. During this construction the Duke and Duchess of York, the future King George VI and Queen mother visited which must have caused some disruption.

Horton was a keen bowler and soon after the Fernery opened, he left on a lengthy bowling tour and holiday which took him around Australia, Sri Lanka, Europe, the UK, North America and Canada. He made effective use of this trip visiting many Botanical gardens and nurseries and arranging to have many new plant species sent to the park.

Between 1935 and 1939 he was responsible for the planting of the "Fillis Street Native Botanical Reserve" which was some four acres planted with approximately 1200 trees of over 200 varieties. Controversially many *Pinus radiata* were felled during the development stage of this area between 1931 to 1935. During the period 1936 to 1938, not long after the addition of Brooklands to the Park, he promoted and successfully completed the planting of the Kauri Grove. This work transformed 10 acres of land in Brooklands that had been left to gorse etc. He planted some 3815 trees of 25 different varieties including 500 Kauri. He was also responsible in 1942 for the planting of the Kaimata Street shelter belt.

In 1938 Horton was made an Honorary Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

During WWII work in the park slowed down significantly with men having gone off to war, and Horton by this time being in his seventies.

Thomas Horton finally retired in 1949 at the age of 81. His retirement however was not to be a long one, as he died in New Plymouth on the first of May 1958.

For more information about Horton's plantings refer to David Medway's excellent articles in the friend's magazines, May 2007, Feb 2010, June 2010, Oct 2010, Feb 2011 and June 2012.

References

Career of Mr. T Horton, *North Canterbury Gazette* 4th March 1938

Meeting of Creditors, *Nelson Evening Mail*, August 26, 1922

Horton's Trees Grow. Author Ian. J. Horton Puke Ariki Library TRCT929.2 HOR.

1921

At the start of the year there was a push to hand over the running of the park to the Borough Council. The feeling among some of the newer members of the Board was that as the Park was a public place it should be run by people who were elected to office. This effort was spearheaded by the Mayoress, Mrs Burgess; she felt that having an essentially self-elected board with members for life, was outdated. However, this meant that the trustees were there because they had a passion for the park and its development. There was also a lot of new blood on the board due to the recent departures of Percy Smith, Richard Cock and W. L. Newman and the death of W. A. Collis, all of whom had been long serving members of the Board.

The lack of a fixed source of finance big enough to run the park was the other main factor driving change. The board always struggled financially, it was receiving an annual subsidy of £250 from the council, but its running costs on wages alone was about £800. The shortfall having to be fundraised. Needing to constantly organise fundraising events was not easy. It was agreed that the Board would approach the council to see if they were amenable to the proposal. The council indicated that they were, however, they also made it clear that they were not prepared to increase the amount of ratepayer funding for the park. This meant that the new Board would essentially be in the same position financially as the existing Board. The matter of transfer was put to a vote at a Board meeting. Mrs. Burgess' notice of motion was as follows: -

“That in order that Pukekura Park and all lands owned by the board shall be vested in the Borough of New Plymouth, a petition signed by the majority of the members of the board be presented to his Excellency the Governor-General praying that he will be pleased to dissolve the board under the powers conferred upon him by section 18 of the Taranaki Botanic Garden Act. 1876, and that in order to give effect to this resolution the board's solicitor be instructed to prepare the necessary petition for signature.”

The motion was rejected, Mrs Burgess and Mr Griffiths being the only members to vote in favour. Soon after that Mrs Burgess resigned.

The Board granted permission for the Acclimatisation Society to build a trout hatchery. This took the form of a whare which was placed at the southern end of the Hatchery Lawn. The first consignment of trout ova was received at the end of June. The brown trout ova came from the Hakataramea hatcheries in Otago, while the rainbow ova came from the Government hatcheries in Rotorua. After hatching the young fry were released into local rivers in August. A good description of the hatching process can be found in a *Daily News* article, August 20, 1921, included in this document.

A notable decision by the Board was not to appoint a new curator after the resignation of W. W. Smith. This was done to save money; however, they did appoint William Bocock (retired farmer) as a working foreman, this position was basically curator without the appropriate salary.

To help the park free advice regarding planting was given by Victor Davies, of Duncan & Davies. This was the start of his long relationship with the park.

The Taranaki Rugby team held the touring Springbok side to a famous draw. The credit for the result went to the coaches, A. L. Humphries and C. Brown. Humphries had been a half-back for New Zealand around the turn of the century and was a stalwart of the Recreation Sportsground Committee dating back to 1906, overseeing the first major transformation of the sportsground.

During a July meeting held in the park it was agreed to establish a fernery and a rhododendron dell. The fernery was planned by John Gibson, a prominent horticulturist, of Frankley Road.

The new Sports Ground Committee got stuck into updating the Sports Ground. They started by re-laying drains and raising the level of the pitch to facilitate better drainage. They imported over 1500 yards of soil. The grass was re-sown by Christmas Eve.

In 1921 Gilbert Street between Victoria Road and the park's Gilbert Street entrance was impassable because of a deep gully which carried the stream running through the park. It was suggested that this be filled in and the road completed to ease traffic problems on Lizardet Street. There was pushback from the council because of the cost. At the time kerosine was used in large quantities and thousands of cans were dumped each year, it was suggested to reduce the costs, people be allowed to dump the cans in the gully to act as fill. Fortunately, it was not allowed.

Plant Donations Included:

Mr. J. Ostler, of Kohuratahi, trees; Mr. D. M. Wilson, of Kaitaia, trees; Duncan & Davies, trees; Mr. T. Williams, trees; Mr. A. K. MacDiarmid, staghorn fern; Mrs. Wheeler, hibiscus.



Pukekura Park Main Lake. *Auckland Weekly News*, October 6, 1921

TH, JANUARY 12, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday, there being present: Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. W. C. Weston, V. Griffiths, H. Ford, C. E. Bellringer, and P. Stainton (hon. secretary).

Mr. Weston, who had been acting as chairman, welcomed Mr. Bellringer back to the board after his visit to the Old Country and Mr. Bellringer, after acknowledging the welcome, resumed his position as chairman.

The secretary reported having written conveying the board's sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. W. A. Collis at the time of his death, and a suitable resolution expressing appreciation of Mr. Collis' services and regret at his death was carried by the board in the customary manner.

Special mention was made of the very satisfactory manner in which the board's employees had carried out the work in the park during the period in which there had been no curator, and as a more practical recognition of their faithful service it was decided to increase their wages by 1s per day. Mr. Bocock was temporarily appointed working foreman.

An offer was received for the leasing of the tea kiosk on the basis of 20 per cent. of the gross takings being handed over the board, but after some discussion it was decided to refer this matter, as well as that of the control of the boats, to the grounds committee with power to act.

It was decided to ask the Borough Council to expedite the tarring of the floor of the band rotunda. The tender of West Bros. for painting the rotunda was accepted.

Accounts amounting to £51 2s 6d (including £44 4s for wages) were passed for payment.

TH, JANUARY 12, 1921

BOATS IN THE PARK

The boats at Pukekura Park are now available daily for those desiring to take the pleasure of a row on the lake when visiting the park. The charge is sixpence for adults and threepence for children.

The Pukekura Park Board decided on Monday to institute at the park the provision daily, free of charge, of hot water to picnickers in the grounds. This will now be available at the tea kiosk any day between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

TH, JANUARY 12, 1921

WINDFALL

"Windfalls" to public bodies are usually something in the nature of surprises and the Pukekura Park Board, somewhat unexpectedly received notification which was read at the meeting on Tuesday that "fines, fees and penalties" collected through the Magistrate's Court, and credited to their account amounted to the princely sum of 30s.

In acknowledging a welcome back to the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) said he had been particularly interested in the course of his travels in visiting public parks and he had seen many very fine places. He had been struck with one feature in them all and that was the provision made for the amusement of children. The parks were everywhere looked upon as the children's playgrounds, and everything possible was done to popularise them in that direction.

TH, JANUARY 26, 1921

NEAR DROWNING

A child of about seven years who was playing on the boat landing at Pukekura Park on Tuesday afternoon fell into the water. The small children she had been playing with did

not seem to realise her danger and did not call for help. It was only when the child was almost drowned that a visitor to New Plymouth Mr. R. Osmond, Birkenhead, Auckland, noticed her plight and went to her rescue. Resuscitation was applied and the child was soon brought round. Mr. Osmond is to be congratulated on his performance and the smart way he went to the little girl's rescue.

TH, JANUARY 26, 1921

SPORTS CROUND.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Recreation Ground Control Committee was held on Tuesday Evening. Mr. A. L. Humphries presiding.

The condition of the grounds at Pukekura Park was discussed at some length and it was ultimately decided to employ a groundsman temporarily for the purpose of putting the grounds in order and cleaning up the terraces, with a view, if funds permit, to placing a man permanently in charge of the grounds. In order to raise funds for this purpose it was decided to hold an open-air entertainment in the park about February 24, and to ask the assistance of the Citizens' Band and other organisations in carrying out the proposal.

TH, FEBRUARY 2, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK.

QUESTION OF CONTROL.

BOARD TO CONFER WITH BOROUGH.

The suggestion that the control of Pukekura Park should be vested in the Borough Council was discussed at a meeting of the Park Board on Tuesday evening. Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presided, and there were also present: Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. W. C. Weston, V. Griffiths, W. F. Short, R. C. Hughes, and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

Mrs. Burgess moved, in accordance with notice given at the December meeting of the board: "That in order that Pukekura Park and all lands owned by this board shall be vested in the borough of New Plymouth, a petition signed by the majority of the members of the board be presented to his Excellency the Governor-General, praying that he will be pleased to dissolve the board under the powers conferred upon him by section 18 of the Taranaki Botanical Gardens Act, 1876, and that, in order to give effect to this resolution the board's solicitor be instructed to prepare the necessary petition for signature."

Speaking in support of this motion, Mrs. Burgess said that the Act appointing the board dated back to 1876, when New Plymouth was a very small town, and its parks of little value. The position to-day was very different. The town had a population of over 10,000, and was rapidly becoming a very favourite resort for holiday purposes, necessitating more care and attention to the reserves in order to make them attractive.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

"The position as regards ourselves," said Mrs. Burgess, "is that whereas in the past one man at a cost of £100 to £150 per year, was sufficient to do practically all that was needed, the work has so increased as to warrant the employment of three men, in addition to which there should also be a superintendent if the park is to be kept and improved as it should be, and as the people expect it will be. The board depends for its income on £250 per year voted by the Borough Council, and on a few pounds gathered from rents, boat fees, etc. The actual expenditure on wages alone will amount to about £750 to £800 a year if a superintendent is appointed, and it is manifestly

unreasonable to expect that the board, as at present constituted, can provide this money."

"Last year," Mrs. Burgess said, "we raised the sum of £1500 for upkeep, but this will not last for more than 12 to 18 months, as several necessary works, such as renovating the tea kiosk, painting the band rotunda, bridges, etc., will absorb a considerable sum. This money provides for maintenance only, leaving nothing for improvements or development. I do not think that it will be possible to again raise so large a sum from the public, as there are so many demands upon them; but, apart from that, it entails a very considerable amount of time and labour, which falls upon the few only. In my opinion it is necessary, if the park is to be carried on successfully and developed, that the constitution of the board must be altered, in order to create a wider circle of interest, which seems impossible under present conditions."

Mrs. Burgess said that the fact that a change would at some time be necessary seemed to have been in the minds of those who framed the Act, as section 18 provided that the Governor might, on the petition the majority of the members of the board, or of two-thirds of the ratepayers of the borough, dissolve the board in which case the lands would be vested in, and managed by the borough. Mrs. Burgess said she was quite sure that if the people and ratepayers of New Plymouth were sincere in their expressions of pride and admiration of their park (for Pukekura had always been looked upon as their park) they would not begrudge a little extra expense on its upkeep, even though a small rate might be necessary for the purpose. It was surely worth it.

On visiting other places, the speaker said, one realised what value was placed on parks and public buildings. New Plymouth was poor in the latter, but very rich in regard to natural beauties, and the developing of these should not be left almost entirely to individual enterprise, as they were in New Plymouth at present. It was not proposed that all private effort should cease, but, though entitled to individual support from townspeople the reserves should be, as in other towns, put on basis that would make them to a very large extent, if not wholly independent of moneys raised and donations. She understood that the borough of New Plymouth had a very valuable asset in the Ngaere Reserve, which would produce a very large revenue, and the speaker asked to what better purpose could this revenue be put than the beautifying of the town's already charming surroundings. She hoped it would be used for that purpose. If the resolution did no more than create more interest it would have done some good.

"New Plymouth is growing," added Mrs. Burgess, "and methods which were good enough in the past will not suffice for the future. In my opinion the resolution should be passed and acted upon for the following reasons, if there were no others: (a) That it is against the spirit of the times, and wrong in principle, that any body of men should be elected for life to administer public properties; (b) the parks, etc., are the people's, and should be administered by the people's representatives, but under our constitution this is impossible, as our board is a self-appointed board, and for life. The Government makes new appointments, certainly, but on the recommendation of the sitting members.

"In conclusion. I would like as a private citizen, and I'm sure the whole town is with me to express my appreciation of the valuable services rendered by members of the board since its inception," said Mrs. Burgess. "The town is greatly indebted to them."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Stainton pro forma.

Mr. Hughes suggested that it was asking the board to commit suicide to agree to the proposal of Mrs. Burgess.

CHANGE DESIRABLE.

Mr. Weston, while agreeing that a change was desirable, said he could not see that the proposal offered any remedy for the difficulties which the board had to face. Mr. Stainton said he thought the constitution of the board was wrong. The Park had grown considerably and the expense had mounted up in proportion, and to expect the same people and the same income to maintain the work was more than was reasonable or possible.

The chairman suggested that the board should discuss the matter with the Borough Council Reserves Committee to ascertain what the council was prepared to do, and he moved an amendment in that direction.

Mr. Weston seconded the amendment.

THE GENESIS OF THE BOARD.

Mr. Hughes said that never since its constitution in 1876 had the board shown the "white feather," and their courage had never failed them, though they had not always had all the support they should have had. In regard to the members being appointed for life, he said he was a member of the Provincial Council when the Act was passed and the original proposal was for the Town Board to have control, but the members protested that their hands were full and the speaker had undertaken the task of getting a number of men who were willing to act, and the board was formed. The motive which actuated the board in recommending certain people for appointment was the desire to see those in charge of the park who were interested in the preservation of scenic beauty spots. In an elective body such as the Borough Council the members were chosen probably because they represented a particular locality, or by reason of their ability as business men, and not for their love of the picturesque, and he thought that in the council they would have an inferior class of people, as far as park matters were concerned. Mr. Hughes further urged that, in view of the state of borough finances, the council will be rather unwilling to take over the management of the park. He thought the board might well go on as they had in the past. With regard to the influx of new blood he thought this factor had been a source of the trouble, and that it was through the new blood that they lost their curator and were now without one.

CONSOLIDATING THE RESERVES.

Mr. Weston suggested that if a conference with the Borough Council Reserves Committee was held, representatives of the other parks and seaside reserves should be invited, especially if there was a possibility of the appointment of a superintendent for all the borough reserves.

Mr. Griffiths said the time was fast coming when the whole of the reserves would have to be consolidated in the borough. He did not think it was possible for the council to take over the park and appoint a curator. The whole of the reserves would have to be under a general management committee, outside of the council, but probably elected and administered through the borough. He did not agree with Mr. Hughes' argument that the council would be an inferior body.

Mr. Hughes said he did not intend to infer that the council were inferior, but held that a board comprised of those interested in reserves was more suitable.

Mr. Stainton said that Mr. Hughes had remarked that the new blood had been the cause of all the board's troubles. The speaker did not take exception to this, because he had probably been concerned in the movement. They had to advance with the times, and that

the park had not progressed in recent years was quite clear from the financial side of its affairs, and the state of the grounds. He took it that Mr. Hughes' remarks referred particularly to Mrs. Burgess, Mr. Weston, and the speaker.

Replying, Mrs. Burgess said her one idea was progress. She said she would not attempt to answer Mr. Hughes as it was not the first time they had had the same kind of contention on the board since she had been a member and when Mr. Hughes was present. There had been an upheaval, and the new blood could take the responsibility for it. The younger members could not be expected to live 44 years back, but they were quite prepared to do something to-day. The progressive movement was to hand over the park to the Borough Council. It was the people's reserve, and they ought to be prepared to pay a rate to help. Mrs. Burgess said she would never again undertake such an effort as was involved in last year's campaign to raise money for the park.

Subsequently Mrs. Burgess agreed to accept the amendment, the motion to be deferred pending the conference with the reserves committee of the Borough Council.

TH, FEBRUARY 3, 1921 PARK CONTROL

At Tuesday night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board Mrs. Burgess endeavoured to give practical effect to an idea which has simmered in many minds for a long time, viz., the idea that control of the park should be vested in the Borough Council, which is elected by the people, instead of in a practically self-elected board. At the outset let us say with Mrs. Burgess that we are sure everyone appreciates the self-sacrificing work done by members of the board in the past, especially by those who year in and year out for nearly half a century have given freely of their time in assisting in bringing the park to its present condition of one of the most beautiful public domains in the Dominion. It must not be forgotten that they have, as it were, had to make bricks without straw. Their permanent resources have always been of the slenderest and they have had a continual struggle to gather the funds required for maintaining and improving the Domain. If the balance-sheets for the past forty-four years were analysed we believe it would fill the public with astonishment to learn how little it has actually cost to bring the park to its present state. Let us therefore give every credit to those who have constituted the board in the past. Their control has frequently been criticised on the ground mainly that they have not kept pace with the spirit of the times and that they have seemed to regard the park as their own. It was thought that they had little sympathy with sports and games, though perhaps they have been misunderstood in this respect. However, whatever the cause, there has been criticism and frequent suggestion that the control be placed in the hands of the people's representatives, the Borough Council. We must confess ourselves as somewhat in sympathy with Mr. Hughes' claim that the Borough Council would not take the same close personal interest in the park that members of the board have done, but on the other hand we believe the time has come — if it is not indeed over-ripe — for a departure from the old system and for municipal control of all the parks, as well as for their municipal support. In the early days, when the Borough Council had but a very small revenue to devote to all purposes it was no doubt necessary to depend upon voluntary work and subscriptions for the care of the park. We find the same thing now in the country districts. Periodically we see in the Gazette an Order-in-Council appointing a number of people to be a Domain Board for

the control of, say, the Warea Domain, or that of some other village settlement. Surely, however, New Plymouth has outgrown that stage and reached a time of life when it can afford to pay for the upkeep and management of its parks, instead of expecting a few private citizens both to manage them and to raise by one means or another most of the money needed. We do not think Mrs. Burgess intended her motion as any reflection on the management, past or present, nor do we think Mr. Hughes' remark about the "new blood" on the board being a source of trouble was at all kind or justified—no doubt he is sorry he made the remark. The motion, we suspect was rather intended as a protest against the system which gives the board a beggarly £250 a year from the rates and expects it to find the rest of the money needed by appeals to the public generosity. It is a wrong system, or at least the town has outgrown it. The public has been generous when appealed to in the right spirit, but we believe that it would be more satisfactory and certainly fairer to make the upkeep a charge upon the rates. We will not say that better results would be given; that would depend upon the liberality or otherwise of the sum voted annually and upon the competence of the curator or supervisor appointed. In other places of the size of New Plymouth municipal control of parks gives good results. However, the board did the right thing in deferring consideration of the matter, which was not one to be decided offhand or without mature thought. It may be possible to find a sort of half-way house between board control and municipal control. The Borough Council has, it is true, had representatives on the board for some years, but they do not seem quite to have felt their responsibility. Perhaps if the position were reversed and we had municipal control with two or three members from outside the council, appointed on account of their special qualifications, better results might ensue.

TH, FEBRUARY 15, 1921 PUKEKURA PARK. QUESTION OF CONTROL. BOARD CONFER WITH BOROUGH COUNCIL. NOMINATIVE SYSTEM NOT SATISFACTORY.

A deputation from the Pukekura Park Board consisting of Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), Mrs. Burgess, Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, and P. E. Stainton waited on the New Plymouth Borough Council on Monday evening with the object of discussing the future control of the park.

Mr. Bellringer explained that there was a proposal that the board should petition the council to take over control of the park, but it was thought, before anything definite was done the whole matter should be discussed by the board and the council in conference. The position briefly was this, that if improvements to the park were to be continued, making it more and more the resort of the people, it was necessary there should be a larger and more certain revenue than at present possessed by the board. At the same time he made it quite clear that they were not approaching the council with a load of debt on their shoulders. As a matter of fact owing to the splendid effort of Mrs. Burgess and those associated with her the board had at the present time a fairly substantial credit balance. The majority of members of the board felt convinced that the time had arrived when there should be a change in the system of control in the direction of making the board more representative of the people than it had been in the past. The nominative system had been in vogue in connection with the board for something over 40 years and all would admit that very good and effective work had been accomplished under that

system, but to-day a system of life membership was not in favour at all. The general feeling was for the public to have a say in regard to the appointment of those who had the control of anything belonging to the public. Therefore, some members of the board thought the board would be more in touch with the people if a new system was devised which would give more representative control. The Act under which the board was at present working provided that on petition from a majority of members of the board or of two-thirds of the ratepayers, the park may be vested in the borough council, who would then take control. Before however, the board decided anything in that nature, they desired, as he had already intimated to discuss the whole position. The council in the past had contributed by way of subsidy to the board, the last subsidy being increased to £250, but the expenditure for the upkeep of the park was such that the board's assured income was totally inadequate even at the present time when they hadn't the services of a curator. In fact, with the ruling rate of wages and other necessary expenditure the revenue from assured sources would be somewhere in the vicinity of £400 short of requirements. Further there were so many appeals to the public that the board felt it could not go on for long increasing its revenue by this means. Therefore it was felt that something was necessary in the way of an assured income for the board that would have control. At the present time the contributions received came largely from the same people, but the park was the property of the people, enjoyed by the people and it was felt that the necessary revenue for its upkeep should therefore be provided by the people as a whole and not from the few. The position at the present time from a financial point of view was fairly satisfactory, but the board felt it should not exhaust all its funds and then come to the council in a state of poverty and ask that the board take the park over. The board, or at any rate, the majority of the board, hoped that some scheme would be evolved whereby the public would get more direct representation and at the same time preserve the spirit of continuity which had been so beneficial to the park in the past.

Mr. R. C. Hughes said the deputation was at a disadvantage inasmuch as the board had not itself discussed the question fully and come to a conclusion. They were here more for the purpose of discussing it with the council and formulating if possible some scheme which would be mutually acceptable. He had opposed the handing over of the park to the borough, feeling that it would be somewhat suicidal. He did not moan, however, that they could get on without the borough's financial assistance. On the other hand he considered it only a fair thing that the public should contribute in the form of some rate towards the funds of the board. He agreed, too, that the borough should have some more direct representation on the board than the case at present, and to this end was inclined to favour increasing the board members to, say, 12, the Borough Council to have four representatives and eight others to be nominated from time to time, as in the past, by members of the board. With regard to the nominative system, he contended that it had its advantages because the selected were selected by virtue of their enthusiasm and love for the work, men who could devote far more time to the affairs of the board than members of the council could be expected to give, in view of the many other calls made upon them. He did not think there should be any objection to life membership, as members grew more experienced as their term of office progressed. He stressed the point that he did not wish to disparage the council in supporting the alternative system, and continuing, said he would like some

assurance if the borough did entertain the matter that the expression of opinion of the board opposing the proposal to run trams through the park would be respected and that the scheme would not be renewed, also that they would not go in for any wholesale destruction of trees. He was one of those who had always advocated the judicious thinning out of trees, but anything like wholesale destruction would be a serious change in policy. It would be a grave mistake to cut too many open spaces, as what most charmed the visitor was the forest-like appearance which was presented in the park.

Mr. Stainton said the board was fairly unanimous that a change was necessary for two reasons: Firstly, the Town had grown to such an extent that further extension of activity at the park was necessary; and secondly, the method of control at present in vogue had out-grown its usefulness, with the result that the revenue necessary for the upkeep and development of the park was not forthcoming at the present time. The position therefore was that either some fresh system of control would have to be adopted, otherwise the park would go back. The question of vesting control in the board was one for discussion. Personally, he agreed to some extent with Mr. Hughes in regard to a separate board of management, by giving the council direct representation. He did not, however, agree with life membership, and argued that automatic retirement after a certain period of office was desirable. At the present time the board was nothing more or less than an autocracy, and this did not tend to efficiency. Dealing with financial matters, Mr. Stainton said the board's assured income at the present time was approximately £325, whereas the expenditure without the services of a curator was in the vicinity of £600. Mr. Stainton also mentioned that whilst to-day the board had a credit of £929 after meeting all its expenses, this would very soon become a deficit unless some other means was devised of controlling the park and raising the required annual revenue.

In reply to the Mayor, Mr. Bellringer said the course discussed was that the council should take over the control or institute board in which the borough would have direct representation as suggested by Mr. Hughes. He added that really the council's representatives on the board had no legal status, and that if their votes were challenged they could not be allowed, personally he did not think that state of things could be allowed to continue.

Replying to Mr. Hughes' remarks with reference to the wholesale destruction of trees, Mr. Bellringer, general manager, said this was not the council's policy. In fact, only recently quite a considerable sum of money had been spent by the council in order to save a row of trees in the vicinity of the cemetery.

The Mayor said that if the park was handed over to the council it would immediately call a public meeting with a view to appointing a committee, as was done in connection with other reserves, to take over the management. The deputation spoke of rate, but in this connection he pointed out there were quite number of parks in the Borough and if they took over one and provided for its upkeep by way of rate then they would be expected to assume similar responsibility in respect to all the other domains. They certainly could not expect committees to appeal for funds as was done now. The council therefore must keep in view the financial aspect of the question always bearing in mind that the coming year was sure to be a difficult one in this connection.

Councillor Brooker asked if the council did not strike a rate for Pukekura Park.

The Mayor said the council did not strike a particular park rate, but in the ordinary rate a

certain proportion as shown on the demand notice was for reserves upkeep.

Councillor Griffiths said he thought the time had arrived for a change in the constitution of the Park Board, and he felt, too, that a curator who would undertake the supervision of all the parks and public reserves in the borough should be employed. The work could then be consolidated but the management continue by private committees on which the council had direct representation.

Councillor Short said that while it would be ideal to adopt Councillor Griffiths' suggestion, he was afraid it would be too costly at the present time. He quite agreed that the time had arrived when there should be a change in the constitution of the board.

Mrs. Burgess said the only chance of altering the constitution and eliminating life membership was to get the constitution amended. If the council took over control as suggested it could set up a committee of management and thus receive the assistance of outside members it might choose to nominate. The board at the present time was small body and the idea of the proposed change was to create a wider interest in the affairs of the park securing a desired alteration in the constitution. More supervision was necessary if they were to get the best results for the money expended and she felt therefore that the time had arrived when the board should assume responsibility.

Mr. Hughes said the park board had been in existence for 45 years and this was the first occasion on which they had quailed before the question of cost. The big effort made last year, notwithstanding its success, must have been exhausting to the principal participants.

The Mayor said the council would consider the matter and give its decision a week hence. Regarding Mr. Hughes' remarks re assurances about trams running through the park and the cutting down of trees this council could not of course pledge any succeeding council.

Mr. Bellringer, replying to Mr. Hughes, said the Park Board had not quailed before the question of finance. The majority of members felt there should be more public representation and this had prompted the proposal. They had no desire to force the matter on the council, but rather to have a conference in the hope of some mutual arrangement being arrived at. Had the board chosen it could have secured a dissolution by petition to the Government, and in that case control would automatically revert to the council. For Mr. Hughes to say the board had quailed before the question of finance was hardly fair. As a matter of fact they had approached the council when they were fairly well off rather than when they were near bankruptcy. The deputation then withdrew, the Mayor promising that the council would carefully consider the matter at its next meeting and communicate with the board.

TH, FEBRUARY 22, 1921

**PUKEKURA
QUESTION OF CONTROL
COUNCIL FAVOUR CHANGE**

The question of the future control of Pukekura park was discussed by the New Plymouth borough Council on Monday evening and a resolution was carried unanimously in favour of the suggestion which has been emanated from Members of the park Board that control be vested in the borough Council.

The Mayor moved: That Pukekura park Board be informed the council is prepared to have the park freeholds vested in it and to assume control.

In support of his motion the mayor said that firstly he felt the chief park of the borough should be under the control of the council,

secondly the Park Board itself had asked this step To be taken and thirdly if the council did not mutually fall in with this suggestion it would have no other alternative if the board exercised its power and petitioned the Government in favour of handing over control to the council. Continuing the mayor said the idea of handing it over to the council, and it must be remembered that the majority of the park Board favoured the proposal, was not so much to rid the trustees of the management of the park but rather to do away with the system of life representation, which was quite out of date, notwithstanding the fact that it might be claimed that the present indication of the park was a testimony to life representation.

The park was vested in the borough for botanical gardens and recreation grounds, but under the present system of trusteeship the sports bodies were almost entirely, or had been until lately, without representation on the board of control, and therefore one of the main objects for which the park existed had not had any direct representation at all. The committee of management should consist of representatives who were more particularly interested in the botanical side of the park and others more particularly interested in sports and recreation generally. As regards finance the council was unable to take over the park and to carry on at the present rate of expenditure if it had to provide the whole. Therefore it was just as well that those who took it over under the new conditions should realise that while the council would do it best to assist financially they must also raise funds similarly to committees controlling other parks in the borough. He had no doubt that the people would respond.

Councillor A. S. Brooker seconded the motion which was carried.

The Mayor then proposed the following additional motions which were seconded by Councillor Short and carried:

"That if control be vested in the council, a meeting of citizens be called for the election of a committee of management to which the council will appoint one or more representatives"; and "that the council regret that an increase in its present subsidy of £250 per annum is at present improbable."

TH, FEBRUARY 23, 1921

SPORTS GROUND FUNDRAISING

The New Plymouth Sportsground Committee has arranged a concert for Friday night, 25th inst. in the Pukekura Park, commencing at 8 p.m. With the kind assistance of the Citizens' Band and several of our best vocalists an excellent programme has been arranged. The grounds will be well lighted and there will be boating on the lake, so that with fine weather a very enjoyable evening is assured to those who attend. It is expected that the concert will attract a very large audience and the funds of the Sports Committee should greatly benefit thereby, which will enable that body to carry out much needed improvements to the Sports Ground.

TH, MARCH 2, 1921

TROUT HATCHERY

The Taranaki Acclimatisation Society have received permission from the Pukekura Park Board to erect a small trout-hatching house in the Recreation Grounds near the lily ponds, and it is intended to proceed with the erection of this as soon as possible. The building, which will be according to a design approved by Mr. L. F. Ayson, Chief Inspector of Fisheries, will take the form of a Maori whare with punga walls and raupo thatched roof. When finished, the hatchery will no doubt be a source of interest to visitors, and should

also be the means of improving the fishing in the local streams.

TH, MARCH 9, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Tuesday night. Present: Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. W. C. Weston, R. C. Hughes and A. S. Brooker. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. P. E. Stainton and H. Ford.

The director of the Technical College wrote for permission for pupils to bathe in the lake under the supervision of a master between 1p.m. and 2p.m. The chairman stated that there was a resolution on the books allowing this.

The grounds committee reported that in conjunction with the representatives of the Acclimatisation Society a site had been selected for the proposed hatchery in the hollow to the left of the outlet from the big lake. The structure would be in the form of a Maori whare, made of punga, with a thatched raupo roof. It would be an addition to the many attractions of the park.— Approved.

On behalf of the foreman in charge the chairman reported that the cleaning up of the grounds was well forward. There was a growth of weed in the lake which should be checked, and also a gradual silting up of the lake. It was decided to lower the level of the lake and to cut the weed. An endeavour too would be made to trap the silt from the Carrington Road before it reached the lake. A puriri at the Gilbert Street entrance had been damaged and it would be for the board to decide as to prosecution. As the offenders were small children no further, action was taken. Mrs. Burgess thought that Children should be taught to love their park, and to look upon it as their playground. They should be encouraged to protect all trees and flowers from damage. It was decided to complete the painting of the bridges and buildings.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. T. H. Bates, architect, for his gratuitous services in connection with the repairs to the tea kiosk.

In reply to, Mr. Brooker the chairman said that no further steps had been taken in the direction of procuring the services of a curator as the salary required and a residence which would have to be found, were beyond the means of the board.

As several members were absent it was decided to defer the final consideration of the notice of motion given by Mrs. Burgess in favour of municipal control of the park until the next monthly meeting.

TH, MARCH 11, 1921

WEATHER STATION

The meteorological instruments in Pukekura Park have not yet been removed and have been undisturbed since Custodian Mr. W. W. Smith gave up the work of observance. It is interesting to note that the highest temperature recorded by the indicator of the maximum thermometer in the shade is 84 deg Fahr, while the minimum for the same period is 40 deg: The total rainfall was 12.85 in. The lowest temp on grass was 33deg.

TH, APRIL 6, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

At the Pukekura Park Board meeting on Tuesday evening there was a further discussion with reference to the proposal as contained in a notice of motion by Mrs. Burgess some little time ago that the board be dissolved and that the future control of the Park be vested in the Borough Council. There was a full meeting of the board and whilst the majority of the members were in favour of the proposal it was felt that just at present the

time was not opportune for the change, and therefore the proposal was negated, but the opinion was expressed that the time was not very far distant when the change would come about.

Mrs. Burgess' notice of motion was as follows: -

"That in order that Pukekura Park and all lands owned by the board shall be vested in the Borough of New Plymouth, a petition signed by the majority of the members of the board be presented to his Excellency the Governor-General praying that he will be pleased to dissolve the board under the powers conferred upon him by section 18 of the Taranaki Botanic Garden Act. 1876, and that in order to give effect to this resolution the board's solicitor be instructed to prepare the necessary petition for signature."

Mrs. Burgess said that the motion had already been discussed by the board and therefore she did not think there was any necessity for her to go over the ground again. All she wished now was that the board vote on the question.

Mr. W. C. Weston said that whilst generally speaking he was in accord with the motion he could not see that any advantage would be gained by carrying it at this juncture as the Borough Council was not in a position to do any more for the park than it was doing at the present time. Such a proposal meant dissolving the present board and whilst it would do away with the existing system of life membership with which he did not agree, it was possible that control would be handed over to a committee that would not have the same interest in the park. If he felt there was any chance of a progressive move arising from the carrying of the motion he would support it, but really was afraid this would not be the position.

Mr. P. E. Stainton said he too was in accord with the proposal but still he could not vote for it at the present time because he felt the board would not be achieving its object. If the Borough Council was in a position to take over the grounds and finance them as they should be financed, then he would have no hesitation in giving his whole-hearted support to the proposal. The object originally aimed at was two-fold, firstly to do away with the obsolete system of life membership, and secondly to have the Park controlled and paid for by the people and not by a certain few. He was absolutely opposed to the system of life membership, and whilst if the motion was carried they would be doing away with that system, they would not be improving the position so far as the general control and financing of the Park was concerned, because the Borough Council had given them clearly to understand that they were not in a position to take over responsibility in the way the board wished them to do. Therefore he felt it would be in the best interest of the Park that the proposal should be left in abeyance for the time being. He was glad that Mrs. Burgess had brought the matter forward. It had given the board an opportunity of ventilating the position and had aroused considerable amount of general interest, and even if the proposal was not carried at this juncture he felt certain it would only be postponed for a while.

Mr. R. C. Hughes said the only thing that would justify the board in carrying the motion and placing control of the park in the hands of the borough would be that it ensured a more effective administration and increased revenue. With regard to administration the board had intimated its complete indifference and had told the board it had its hands full with other business and could not for a while, at any rate, attend to this. Their feeling was intimated by saying that as soon as control came into their hands they would call a public meeting with the object of electing a committee to look after the Park. They

would, in other words, wash their hands of it and place the responsibility of control on someone else. With regard to finance, the Park would be worse off than it was now because the council had told the board they could not increase the existing subsidy. In fact as members of the board well knew, in view of the present condition of affairs the borough would have to go in for a system of rigid economy. Therefore, on both grounds no benefit could accrue and he intended to vote against the motion.

Mr. W. F. Short said the position of Borough Council at the present time was such that they were not likely to take over the Park and control it with the same interest and enthusiasm as the board or any similar board as the personnel of the council was always changing. The advantage of course would be that at some time the council might appoint an overseer, whose duty it would be to advise in respect not only to Pukekura Park, but all the public parks and domains in the borough, but in view of the council's finances this could not be done at this juncture.

The chairman (Mr. C. E. Bellringer) said that with the general principle he was in accord. The system of life appointments was a wrong one. It was an old idea and not at all in keeping with the spirit of the times. In that respect he was thoroughly in accord with the motion and he also believed that the Borough Council was the proper authority to control and manage the Park and that it should be kept out of revenue derived from rates as was done in other cities. The council had, however, told the board it was quite impossible at this state to create a parks department and give it the necessary supervision. That was the board's difficulty at the present time, and therefore he felt that they should not press for change. At the same he was satisfied it would come and that it was on right lines, but in a year or two's time conditions would have improved and the council would no doubt be in a position to adopt the course the board desired.

Mr. V. Griffiths felt that the change on the lines proposed was very desirable and that it already had been delayed too long. They already had one of the most beautiful towns in the Dominion from a botanic point of view and if they were to keep pace with the times they must have some systematic method of dealing with the whole of the domains. He felt that Mrs. Burgess' proposal was a step in the right direction and intended to support it. Even though by carrying the motion at this juncture they did not achieve all they would like, they would do away with the present system of life membership, and the people themselves would have a voice in the election of the committee. This, he felt, would arouse a greater interest in the park and also be the means of opening up further avenues of revenue.

Mrs. Burgess, in reply, said that even if the Borough Council did call a public meeting and handed over the Park management to a citizens' committee, the present members of the Park Board could assist in the work, but the main point was that there would be a larger circle of opinion and probably broader views, as well as a great deal more support. So far as the finances were concerned, the park was in a position of apparent comfort, for the next 18 months, at any rate, but she asked what was going to be done at the end of that time. If they increased the strength of the committee and that committee had the town behind them, then they would prepare for that time, because she satisfied the people would soon see the wisdom of having a parks' superintendent and would insist upon such an appointment being made. Mrs. Burgess said that since she came out into public life there was nothing in which she had taken a keener interest than in Pukekura Park, and she had

felt all along that the constitution of the board was wrong. However, even though her motion was not carried now the change was coming and coming very soon.

The motion was then put to the meeting, but lost, those voting in its favour being Mrs. Burgess and Mr. Griffiths.

TH, APRIL 6, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. W. C. Weston, H. Ford, R. C. Hughes, V. Griffiths, W. F. Short.

It was reported that the lake had been thoroughly cleared of weed, a really good job having been made of the work by the park staff. A considerable amount of general cleaning up had also been carried out.

It was further reported that boating on the lake was becoming increasingly popular.

It was decided to hold a meeting of the grounds committee early next week to decide what planting is to be done this season, the chairman and members generally expressing the opinion that every opportunity should be taken to get as much planting done as possible.

The question of painting the tool house and bridge was referred to the chairman and the secretary.

Other business of a routine nature was transacted and a number of accounts passed for payment.

TH, APRIL 18, 1921

HATCHERY - ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

In presenting the 58th annual report the executive are pleased to be able to congratulate the society upon its improved position. It will be remembered that owing to the war the old hatcheries were closed down. Acting upon instructions received from the last annual meeting the question of re-establishing this branch of acclimatisation work has been gone into with the result that the society has now a well-equipped hatchery in Pukekura Park capable of handling up to half a million ova. This was made possible by the kindness of the Park Board together with voluntary subscriptions and labour on the part of sportsmen.

TH, APRIL 22, 1921

CHOPPING COMPETITION

There was a very fair attendance at Pukekura Park on Thursday afternoon when J. E. Shewry world's champion axeman, and W. Green gave an exhibition, each man doing his best in three chops, 12in., 14in., and 15in. poplar blocks. There has been very little chopping in Taranaki of late, but that a keen interest is taken in such events was manifested by the enthusiasm that was shown on Thursday. The fact, too, that Shewry and Green met in a special match at Arenalui a few days ago added to the interest of Thursday's exhibition. At Arenalui it will be remembered Shewry won, Green being only three or four strokes behind, notwithstanding the fact that he had misjudged his scarf in the first place and ran out of wood.

In the 12in. chop on Thursday the result was a dead heat, the blocks toppling over and striking the ground together. Shewry damaged the edge of his axe after striking three blows and had to change it, thus losing probably a couple of strokes, but both men turned together and there was considerable excitement. Green, when he got well into his blow struck a knot, but it was not of such a

nature as to interfere with his work being dry and apparently more or less decayed so that it broke easily immediately he cut into it. The time was given as 26 seconds.

In the 14in. chop both men struck clean timber, but Green did the neatest work of the two. His strokes were slightly faster than Shewry's at the outset and the fact that his block slabbled gave him a little advantage, with the result that he turned quicker than his opponent and finished with just two strokes to the good in 26sec.

In the third and final chop, the 15in. block, Green again won. He had judged his wood beautifully, whereas Shewry had allowed rather too much on one hand, his scarf not running out true. The time was 38 seconds. Both men chopped splendidly and had a great ovation.

On the day the honours were with Green, a very active Maori, and a coming champion axeman.

TH, MAY 4, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, H. Ford, W. F. Short, and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

The chairman reported that the staff were removing native trees for planting on the hill near the entrance, from which pinus insignis had been removed. On his motion it was decided that a sum not exceeding £25 should be spent in procuring rare native trees for planting in the park, also hedge plants required along the racecourse. Other routine business was dealt with.

EXTRA NOTES FROM TDN REPORTS

The resignation of Mrs. C. H. Burgess.

TH, JUNE 8, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (in the chair), R. C. Hughes, C. Weston, V. Griffiths, H. Dempsey, A. T. Moore and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

An apology was received from Mr. H. Ford, who is indisposed, also from Mr. Short.

The Chairman formally welcomed the newly-appointed representatives of the Borough Council, Messrs. Dempsey and Moore, and said he believed both would render good service on behalf of the Park.

It was decided to renew a deposit of £100 with the Mortgage, Loan and Agency Company.

The Chairman reported that during the past month considerable planting out had been done at the park, Messrs. Duncan and Davies having met the board very liberally in regard to the price of the trees purchased from their nurseries, as well as making the board a donation of quite a number of other trees. Mr. Davies had also very kindly attended at the park on two occasions and given them the benefit of his advice in regard to the planting and the most suitable places for the different trees. Considerable cleaning up had also been done, really good work having been done by the men in the board's service.

It was decided to allow the Beautifying Society a number of trees for the purpose of planting on Baines Terrace.

It was decided to spend up to £10 on the purchase of pohutukawas.

Mr. Dempsey was asked to supervise the pruning of the rose trees and the cleaning up of the rose garden generally.

TH, JUNE 17, 1921
HATCHERY READY TO RECEIVE OVA

The Taranaki Acclimatisation Society's trout hatcheries at Pukekura Park are now in full working order and ready for trout ova. The council of the society has received advice that its order of 200,000 brown trout eyed ova and 50,000 rainbow eyed ova will arrive in New Plymouth in about 10 days' time, when the ova will be transferred to the hatcheries. The brown trout ova will come from the Hakatamea hatcheries in Otago and were secured from lusty fish taken from the larger cold waters of that district, while the rainbow ova will come from the Government hatcheries in Rotorua and from specially selected mature fish. A healthy lot of fry can therefore be looked forward to for distribution in Taranaki streams.

TH, JUNE 18, 1921
W. L. NEWMAN OBITUARY
BOARD TRUSTEE 1894-1918
(WILLIAM LITCHFIELD NEWMAN).

It is with more than ordinary regret that we have to record the death, which occurred at 1.30 this morning, of Mr. William Litchfield Newman, one of the best known and most respected residents of New Plymouth. Mr. Newman was a native of New Plymouth, having been born here in 1853. His father, Mr. J. L. Newman, came to New Plymouth from Cork in 1849. On completing his education he entered the office of Messrs. C. Brown and Co., shipping agents, where he received his earliest commercial training. About the end of 1871 or the beginning of 1872 he joined the S.S. Go-ahead, a little steamer of 90 tons purchased to trade on this coast, as purser, and in 1875 he entered the service of the Union Steam Shipping Company as purser on the S.S. Maori, afterwards serving in the same capacity on the S.S. Wakatipu then one of the largest steamers of the Red Funnel fleet. In 1878 he was appointed the company's manager at New Plymouth, a position he held for nearly twenty years, when he entered into business on his own account as a shipping and commission agent. There are few men who have taken a more active and unselfish interest in matters pertaining to the advancement of the town and district than the subject of this notice, though it was always done in so modest and unassuming a way that only those intimately acquainted and associated with him were aware of the full extent and value of his activities. For some years he was president of the Acclimatisation Society, and an active worker in the stocking of the streams with trout and the acclimatisation of game. He took a very keen interest in the Recreation Grounds, or Pukekura Park as it is now known, and was for a long time a member of the controlling board. As a steward of the Taranaki Jockey Club he did much for horse-racing and helped materially to bring the club to its present high standing among similar institutions. His sound financial ability was much appreciated as a director of the Taranaki Land, Building and Investment Society, and as a trustee, and latterly vice-president of the New Plymouth Savings Bank. His long connection with shipping caused him to take great interest in the harbour works, and though never a member of the Harbour Board his advice was frequently sought and freely given. As a member of the council and for a period president of the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce, he gave useful service to the business community. When the headquarters of the Polynesian Society was transferred to New Plymouth he became treasurer and a member of the council, and in those capacities gave valued assistance to a cause

which is of world-wide scientific importance. During the war he rendered great assistance in a quiet way to various patriotic movements, and in many other ways it may be said of him that he carried out to the full the duties of good citizenship. A man of sterling character, the strictest integrity, and of sound if rather conservative views, he enjoyed the fullest confidence of the whole community, which will be the poorer for his absence.

He leaves a widow, a daughter of the late Captain Hempton, who will have universal sympathy in her bereavement.

TH, JULY 6, 1921
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Herald Office on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. W. C. Weston, H. Dempsey, R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The Chairman, in his annual report stated that the outstanding feature of the past year was the great effort made to raise money for the board, so wisely and ably directed and controlled by Mrs. C. H. Burgess. The result was beyond all expectations. A sum of over £1300 was obtained, which had placed the financial position of the board in a very satisfactory condition and enabled the work of the board to be carried on without hindrance. He regretted that Mrs. Burgess resigned recently but he had no doubt her help would be freely given in the future whenever the board might seek it. The curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, resigned his position during the year. Mr. Smith had occupied this position for some eleven years, and the evidence of his valuable work were to be seen in many parts of the park. Owing to it being altogether impossible for the board to build a curator's residence and other financial difficulties, the board decided to carry on without a curator for a time. The sports ground had been leased to a special sports committee representing the various sports clubs of the town, with two representatives of the board; the committee, he understood, had in view a big special effort to provide funds for extensive improvements. The old tea rooms had been renovated, but as it was late in the season before the work was completed it was not possible to make any use of them. The removal of the fence and laying out the lawn in front of the rooms had greatly improved the general appearance. The work was carried out under the direction of Mrs. Burgess. The ordinary work of the staff had been well attended to. A number of pinus insignis trees had been cut down and removed. In place of these a considerable number of native trees had been planted. Mr. Victor Davies very kindly gave the benefit of his experience in the planting of crimson gums and other trees so as to produce the best effect. The nursery had been replenished with trees and shrubs for future planting. Mr. Dempsey had kindly taken charge of the roses and they were looking for a good display in the season. Several of the walks were becoming somewhat worn and would have to be dealt with shortly. Under arrangement with the board, the Acclimatisation Society had built their fish hatchery in the park at the head of the lily pond. This should prove an additional attraction to the visitors. He greatly regretted the loss by death of Mr. W. A. Collis, who for many years, first as representing the Borough Council and afterwards as an ordinary member, rendered most faithful service on the board. His place had been filled by Mr. W. F. Short on the nomination of the

Borough Council. He also made reference to the death of Mr. W. L. Newman who, up to the time of his retiring a year or two ago, took a deep interest in the park and helped in its early development. They had had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. H. Dempsey and Mr. A. T. Moore on the board as representatives of the Borough Council. Councillor Griffiths continues with the board, also as a representative of the council. In conclusion Mr. Bellringer expressed his thanks to the secretary for the ready assistance he had given. He also expressed his gratitude to all the members for their kindness and consideration.

FINANCIAL.

The financial statement showed that the receipts during the year were as follows:- Bank balance, April, 1920, £79 18s 11d; donations and subscriptions, £247 8s 9d; boat receipts, £48 13s 7d; proceeds concerts, £52 13s 6d; Taranaki Jockey Club donation, £50; proceeds gate money, matches, £47 9s; Borough Council subsidy, £226 4s; Apple Day and donations, £184 8s 9d, rents, £35 15s; special collection, Old Girls' Association, £143 5s 6d; Park Tennis Club social £20 15s; Oakura basket social, £24 4s 6d; pony competition, etc. £43 11s; proceeds carnival, £730 12s; - total £1934 9s 6d. There had been placed on deposit £1000, and after meeting all liabilities there was a bank balance of £88 13s 9d. In addition there was also on deposit an endowment of £100 from the late Mrs. Hulke.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the balance-sheet, said the year was one of the most successful the board had experienced thanks to the wonderful results of Mrs. Burgess' campaign. A considerable amount of planting had been done this season, and a number of places which had had a somewhat neglected appearance had been thoroughly cleaned up. The park to-day was, he thought, looking better than it had ever done.

Mr. Weston, in seconding the motion, also referred to the success of the past year's work, and took advantage of the opportunity of congratulating the secretary (Mr. Stainton) upon the way he had carried out his duties.

The motion was carried.

GENERAL

Appreciative reference was made to the services of Mr. Bellringer as chairman of the board, and he was unanimously re-elected to the position for the ensuing year.

It was decided that the whole board pay a visit to the park on Thursday afternoon, June 14, with the object of deciding upon what work is to be undertaken in the immediate future.

It was decided that the donation of £300 from Mr. C. H. Burgess be placed in a special fund, to be known as the Burgess Fund, and that the purpose for which the money shall be spent be decided later.

A number of accounts were passed for payment.

TH, JULY 8, 1921
TROUT HATCHERIES

The Taranaki Acclimatisation Society are receiving a consignment of rainbow trout ova from the Government hatcheries at Rotorua by the mail train tonight. These will be hatched in the new hatcheries in Pukekura Park.

TH, JULY 15, 1921
SPECIAL PARK BOARD MEETING

A special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Park on Thursday afternoon. An inspection was made of various parts of the grounds and it was decided to erect a bush-house in the vicinity of the nursery, with a view to establishing a

fermy. Mr. C. E. Bellinger and Mr. V. Griffiths were appointed a sub-committee, and will seek the assistance and co-operation of a number of residents who have made a special study of ferns. It was also agreed to form a rhododendron dell, the idea of the board being to feature certain things in the park. Inquiries will be made as to the cost of an additional boat for the lake. A number of paths which have become very slippery will be gravelled.

TH, JULY 18, 1921
NOTES ON SPRINGBOK
MATCH.
TARANAKI'S REVIVAL.

Faced by a redoubtable international team on Saturday, Taranaki had their backs to the wall, and the fifteen best of the province played as they never played before. The fact of being unused to a soft ground was not the reason the Springboks could not prevail, nor do they claim it to be an excuse. In dividing the honours they played a worthy game, but they could not score simply because the defense was flawless. The opinion has been expressed by men recognised as authorities on the game in New Zealand that probably no team in New Zealand to-day could have displayed a more excellent defense.

Anyone who has gained the impression that the Springboks are an easy thing should lose it quickly. They had improved since Wanganui, but could not repeat their victory because the Taranaki forwards, though lighter in the aggregate by about thirteen stone, outplayed their opponents in the tactics best suited to the conditions and because the Taranaki backs tackled fiercely and flawlessly. Next time the Springboks are on a soft ground the progress in their education will be noticeable. Also, New Zealand has yet to see their star combination and, given dry ground, it will be a remarkable attacking machine and one that is not easy to penetrate.

To instructions the Taranaki men played, and the result showed with what sound judgment those instructions had been issued by Messrs. A. L. Humphries and C. Brown—the former of whom is affectionately remembered as "Skinny," one of the cleverest half-backs produced in New Zealand, and the latter of whom is the Charlie Brown who captained the New Zealand military team in South Africa. Their coaching of the team in the few days preceding the match was invaluable. The generalship of Dick Roberts as captain put the finishing touches. Any suspicion that Taranaki's latest great centre three-quarter was a waning power was dissipated by his exhibition on Saturday; when head-work was combined with stubborn defence and dashing attack. Dick Roberts knew something of the South Africans, having been a member of the military team that toured their country.

TH, JULY 30, 1921
HATCHERY

The final consignment of trout ova for the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society arrived on Thursday night and have been placed in the hatching tray. The eggs, which were obtained from the Government hatcheries at Hakataramea, Otago, are a particularly clean and healthy sample and should develop into strong fry. The society will have when hatching is completed 100,000 rainbow trout fry and 200,000 browns. The rainbow fry will be strong enough for distribution shortly and will be liberated in the following streams: Maketawa (Inglewood), 20,000; Okahu (Rahotu), 12,500; and Stony River (Okato) 37,000. Visitors are invited to inspect the hatcheries which are at the head of the lily pond in Pukekura Park, and Mr. Bell, who is

in charge of the operations, will be pleased to show anyone interested round any morning.

TH, AUGUST 3, 1921
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellinger (chairman) presiding. There were also present. Messrs. W. C. Weston, H. Dempsey, A. T. Moore and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

It was reported that the board's application to the borough council for the installation of a light at the foot of the hill leading to Vogeltown had been received.

The Taranaki Jockey Club forwarded a donation of £10 10s towards the park funds, and the chairman explained that on behalf of the board a letter had been forwarded to the Jockey Club for its generous gift.

Reference was made to the improvements that were being effected to the paths as the result of gravelling.

It was reported that Mr. Sanders, of Westown, had agreed to supervise and lay out a rhododendron dell in the park and that in the course of a few days a commencement would be made with the necessary preparatory work for the establishment of a fernery.

The borough council forwarded extracts from a report by Mr. Day, borough inspector, in which he made several suggestions, already published, which he felt would facilitate the handling of large crowds on special occasions at the Sports Grounds. It was resolved to forward the letter to the sports committee who had control of the grounds.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. J. Ostler, of Kohuratahi, for a donation of trees, and to Mr. D. M. Wilson, of Kaitaia, for a donation of trees.

Complaints were made of the nuisance of straying dogs in the park, and it was resolved to rigidly enforce the by-laws in this connection, and to prosecute the owners of all dogs found in the grounds, unless they were on a lead.

There are a number of pine trees in the Park which have to be removed, and it was resolved to grant permission to anyone prepared to do so, to split them for firewood, always provided they were felled under the supervision of the board's officer.

TDN, AUGUST 20, 1921
TROUT HATCHERIES.
PUKEKURA PARK
TARANAKI ACCLIMATISATION
SOCIETY'S WORK.

These hatcheries are now in full swing, and have been largely patronised by the public of late, who have been full of appreciation of the work of the society, and in particular of that of Mr. W. J. Bell, who is superintending operations. Indeed, one visitor from the South Island remarked that it was well worth travelling to New Plymouth to see the hatchery alone. There are now some 275,000 Ova and young trout on view, but would-be visitors are urged not to delay if they wish to see them, as they are progressing rapidly that the commencement of liberations takes place at once. Briefly, the series of operations now going forward is as follows:- The ova arrive packed in butter-cloth, resting upon moss; the case in which they travel is also arranged to carry a quantity of ice. This keeps the vitality of the eggs down, so that, being semi-dormant, they are less likely to sustain injury on their journey. Even then the boxes of ova have to be handled with extreme care. For instance, a heavy blow to the case is sufficient to kill a large number of eggs. Arrived at the hatchery, the ova are carefully unpacked, or floated off the butter-cloth into

a bowl of ice-cold water, and then spread on the hatching trays. The troughs which contain these also contain at first large pieces of ice. This gradually melts, and the water rises to its normal temperature without injuring the ova, which otherwise would be killed by the shock. The trays are placed in tiers in the troughs, and by an ingenious arrangement the water is made to rise through them all from bottom to top in succession. On examining the eggs, it will be noticed that there are two black dots, some way apart, in each of them. These are the eggs of the future fish, and when they are present it is certain that the egg is fertile. When nearing hatching, it is possible to see the eyes moving about in the egg, through the semi-transparent shell, giving it a somewhat uncanny appearance. In a few days, depending upon how far advanced the ova were when received, and upon the temperature of the water, the young trout commence to burst their shells and to make their appearance. They do not look very much like fish, for each troutlet has attached to its abdomen a sac or, rather, one might say, each sac has a troutlet attached to it. This is the remainder of the yolk of the egg, and the fish gradually absorb it, growing fast all the time. When it is just absorbed is the time plant the fish in the rivers.

There are many queer freaks of nature among the baby fish. Some have two heads, some two tails and some are Siamese twins. These, of course, live only a very short time. In liberating the fish the greatest care has to be exercised in bringing the temperature of the water in the fish cans to that of the river. This is accomplished by pouring water out of the can and replacing it with water from the river, and often takes some time, and many changes. It is only necessary to state that a difference of over two degrees will kill every fish, to show the importance of the above, indeed, many fish must have been killed by liberators at times simply owing to their ignorance of this point. The system of liberation is based on the fact that three or four tiny fish are unnoticed by big trout, eels, etc., as being in no sense a meal. To liberate young fish of any sort in a body is a great mistake. They invariably form a shoal, and naturally attract attention which their enemies are not long in giving to them.

The present-day liberator passes along the river with a receptacle of fish. Here and there, whenever he finds a quiet little shallow, he dips out a very few never more than six. It takes a long time, but the results that follow prove it to be the right one. Indeed, the excellent waters of South Taranaki were made by this process. The little fish now fend for themselves. Never having been artificially fed their natural instinct teaches them what to look for and what to eat. They are spread all over the river, so there is food for all. They thrive and grow in their new environment at an enormous rate in this Dominion, and nowhere in it is there better trout water than in Taranaki.

The secretary of the Acclimatisation Society (Mr. Val. Duff, New Plymouth) would be glad to hear from gentlemen willing to assist in liberating fish, especially in the following districts:- Opunake, Inglewood, Okato, Warea, Lepperton, Oaonui.

TH, AUGUST 29, 1921
FRY RELEASED INTO LOCAL
RIVERS

Another batch of healthy fry was liberated on Sunday by the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society as follows:—

12,000 at Kaimiro, Upper Waiwhakaiho, by Messrs. G. G. Grover and W. S. Bamsey; 15,000 Mangorei and Waiwhakaiho Rivers by Messrs. F. Duckworth and Mr. A. Feakins; 15,000 Waiongona River and tributaries, Lepperton, by Mr. W. J. Bell,

assisted by local sportsmen. The fish arrived at the rivers in perfect condition, and with no losses. The liberations were entirely successful. The society continues operations by a liberation at Warea on Friday next. Fish will arrive at the store at 10.30 a.m., and assistance from local sportsmen will be much appreciated.

TH, SEPTEMBER 7, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, H. Dempsey, V. Griffiths, A. T. Moore, and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

An apology was received from Mr. H. Ford, who was granted leave of absence.

The New Plymouth Sports Committee wrote asking if the board would like to have further representation on the committee, and stating that if so it would be pleased to fall in with this. It was also pointed out that an offer had been made to the committee by a local gentleman to defray the cost of a boulder wall along the front of the bottom terrace on the western side of the sports ground. The offer had been accepted by the committee subject to confirmation by the board. Before asking for this confirmation, however, the committee hoped to bring down a comprehensive scheme for the improvement of the whole of the sports ground which would probably provide for the permanent protection of the terraces.

Mr. Griffiths was appointed to the sports committee, and regarding other matters dealt with in the communication, consideration was deferred so that the board may confer with the committee on the whole question.

The chairman reported that preliminary work had been done in connection with the establishment of a fernery, which had been planned by Mr. J. Gibson, of Frankley Road. It was reported that gifts of trees had been forwarded by the Borough Council and Mr. T. Williams, and that Mr. A. K. MacDiarmid had given a very fine specimen of the staghorn fern.

It was also explained that Mr. Dempsey had pruned the roses in the rose garden and generally tidied up the surroundings.

It was decided to call for tenders for the rights of the tea kiosk for the season, same to be dealt with at next meeting.

TH, SEPTEMBER 10, 1921

SPORTS GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

The playing area in Pukekura Park is to receive attention as the first step in a comprehensive scheme of improvement which the Sports Ground Committee has in view. As soon as possible after the representative football match (Taranaki v. Auckland), on the 24th of this month, the ploughing of the ground will be put in hand. After that it will be brought to a proper level given a top-dressing of about two inches of black soil, and re-sown. It is hoped that the ground will be ready for the next football season, at any rate for the visit of the French team which tours New Zealand next year. A still larger work, which cannot be taken in hand during tile coming summer, is the improvement of the terraces, by increasing their number and by replacing the turf banks with walls of some permanent material not so liable to destruction. A scheme for this will probably be drawn up shortly, so that portions of it may be carried out in the near future if found practicable. One public-spirited citizen desires to place a boulder wall along the bottom of the western terraces. When the committee has decided on a comprehensive plan of work, offers such as

this can be accepted for immediate execution, provided they fit in with the plan.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 27, 1921 TRAFFIC TO THE PARK OPENING UP GILBERT STREET PROPOSAL TO FILL GULLY

A suggestion to facilitate the handling of traffic to and from Pukekura Park was made by Inspector Day in a report to last night's meeting of the New Plymouth Borough Council.

The inspector wrote as follows. "The increased interest in football has resulted in very large crowds assembling on the sports ground at the park, and experience has shown that the handling of such a large number of cars is extremely difficult with the present street arrangements. At the present time, there is no suitable place for taxis. Some time ago I suggested that the gully in Gilbert St be filled up so as to allow cars to come via Carrington Rd and Gilbert St. This would go a very long way towards solving the difficulty and keep Liardet St quite clear. When it was proposed some time ago, it was thought to be too expensive, but I now have a suggestion to do it at very little cost. During the year there are thousands of benzine tins 'tipped', and I suggest that permits, be given to tip kerosene tins there under certain conditions. In this way a road could very soon be made. In view of the big football programme for the next winter I think something should be done at once."

The general manager thought that in view of the fact that the locality was right in a residential quarter there would be some complaints against the tipping. Personally, he did not like the idea, though he knew that Mr. Day had a good deal of trouble with the traffic.

Inspector Day said there would be little trouble if the locality was kept tidied.

Council decided to secure an estimate of the cost of the necessary earthworks and deferred consideration till next week.

TH, SEPTEMBER 29, 1921

SPORTS GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

The work of levelling and re-grassing the playing area of the sports ground at Pukekura Park, which was decided upon recently by the newly-constituted Sports Ground Committee, was commenced this morning. Several men were employed in the preliminary work of cleaning out the drains and it is expected that the work of ploughing the area will be commenced early next week. Levels have been fixed and when the ploughing has been done the ground will be brought to a uniform level. The clay for the filling, where such is required, is to be obtained from a bank in Fillis Street, just outside the Liardet Street entrance gates. When this has been completed the whole surface will be dressed to a depth of about two inches with good black soil, which the committee has secured from Vogelstown, and then the grass will be sown down. The work should be completed inside a month, and it is hoped the ground will be quite ready for representative football matches next season.

Provision is being made in the undertaking for cricket pitches, and a strip of ground, right down the centre of the playing area, is being specially treated with a view to the requirements of cricket clubs, giving space for a good match wicket, and also practice pitches.

When the whole scheme has been carried into effect a very fine ground should be available for all classes of sport. The next step the committee have in mind is the improvement of the terraces, and the increasing of their seating accommodation.

TH, OCTOBER 5, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, V. Griffiths, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore and P. E. Stainton (secretary). Leave of absence was granted to Mr. H. Ford.

The chairman reported that the general work of the park had been pushed on with during the month and that the grounds were looking very well just now. Good progress had been made with the preliminary work in connection with the establishment of a fernery. A number of dead trees that marred the view down the gully from the racecourse would shortly be removed as agreed upon by the board.

Mr. Bellringer and other members of the board expressed their pleasure at the increased interest that was being shown in the park. The people were, it was satisfactory to note realising more than ever that it was their park and that they had a duty to perform both to themselves and to the grounds in protecting their property. It was particularly encouraging for instance to know that during the flowering season, with all the spring blooms that were about the park, practically none were picked. This would encourage the planting out of further bulbs and flowering plants and shrubs in future years.

Mr. Bellringer also expressed his appreciation of the respect that, had been shown for the terraces in the Sports Ground during the football season. The grounds had accommodated some very large crowds, but the terraces had come through very well, spectators having refrained from climbing up and down the terraces as had been the case in former years. It was very gratifying indeed to be able to record these facts and he hoped the interest would continue to grow, for it was in the interests of the townspeople and public generally to do all they could to protect the property.

A tender was accepted for the tea kiosk for the season, subject to certain conditions and with the right of renewal for a further term.

The chairman referred to the popularity of the lake as a swimming pool and said that last season a large number regularly bathed there in the early morning and evening, while Technical College boys availed themselves of the privilege at mid-day. He thought the board should make an effort to provide dressing shed accommodation, and it was eventually agreed that the building which was originally erected as a bathing shed but which has latterly been used as a tool-house should be cleared and made available for bathers.

It was decided to erect a number of sign posts directing visitors to the different points of interest, in the park.

A letter was received from the Borough Council notifying that a date had been set aside for band recital at which a collection could be made on behalf of the park.

A discussion arose as to the general question of Sunday collections in the Park, and Mr. Hughes said there had been a former understanding that no collections should be made.

The chairman said that recent recitals by the band had been very largely attended and that it was evident the efforts of the band were appreciated by the liberal response made to the collections. Regarding Mr. Hughes' remarks, He hardly thought, any previous understanding could be binding on the present board.

Mr. Hughes said the matter was one which needed careful consideration, and expressed his intention of giving notice of motion to deal with the question at next meeting. He

quite agreed that recent recitals had been largely attended and had given a great deal of pleasure, but the point he desired to raise was whether people should be allowed to make money out of it.

The chairman and other members said that whilst they would certainly be opposed to private individuals being given the right to make collections, they did not think there could be any objection to the privilege being granted to a public institution such as the band for instance.

It was eventually agreed to discuss the whole question at the next meeting.

The hope was expressed that during the coming summer months it would be possible to arrange for a series of evening concerts in the park.

TH, OCTOBER 7, 1921

SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE

A meeting of the New Plymouth Sports Ground Committee was held on Thursday evening. In the absence of the chairman (Mr. A. L. Humphries), Mr. S. J. Smith was voted to the chair. There was a good attendance of members. A progress report in connection with the improvements being carried out to the playing area of the sports ground, the estimated cost of which is in the vicinity of £500, was submitted. It was explained that the drains around the grounds had been thoroughly cleaned out and that the tile drains were now being taken up and re-laid in order to provide for a thorough drainage system. A commencement had been made with the ploughing of the ground and it was proposed to add a couple of inches of black soil, representing about 750 yards, before sowing the grass seed. The ground would also be levelled and provision would be made for cricket pitches along the centre with a slight grade to the boundaries of the ground, to give a fall to the surface. Every effort was being made to push on with the work, so that there shall be no delay in grassing the grounds down and in order to ensure them being available for football early next season.

TH, NOVEMBER 2, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Herald Office on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer presiding. There were also present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, H. Dempsey and A. T. Moore.

An apology was received from the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton.

In accordance with the wishes of the board Mr. Hughes submitted for approval a draft agreement between the board and Mrs. M. G. Webb in respect to the latter's lease of the tea kiosk in the park. This was confirmed, and it was also explained that Mrs. Webb had consented to the conditions and that in the meantime the kiosk had been open daily between the hours of 1.45 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Mr. A. L. Moore, principal of the Technical College and Mr. H. A. Stratford, headmaster of the Central School, wrote thanking the board for having granted permission to pupils to swim in the upper lake, and intimating that they would see to it that some responsible person was always in charge when the pond was used for swimming.

The chairman reported that the staff was engaged in generally cleaning up the park, which was looking particularly well just now. Reference was made to the visit to the park by his Excellency the Governor-General and

Lady Jellicoe, and to the fact that they were charmed with its beauty.

A letter was received from the Salvation Army asking for permission for the Eltham Boys' Band to give a concert in the park during their visit to New Plymouth on November 20 and 21st and for the Auckland City Silver Band on January 1 next, also for permission to take up a collection on each occasion. The request was acceded to.

The chairman intimated that the Ponsonby Boys' Band proposed visiting New Plymouth on December 27, and that a suggestion had been made that they give a concert in the park in the evening. He understood the Regimental Band was making arrangements for billeting the boys while they were in New Plymouth. However, there would probably be something definite before the board at its next meeting.

A number of accounts were passed for payment and it was intimated that the bank balance was £66 14s 2d.

TH, NOVEMBER 3, 1921
SPORTS GROUND UPDATE

One of the best football grounds in New Zealand will be provided in New Plymouth on the completion of the improvements now in progress in Pukekura Park sports ground, stated the chairman of the Taranaki Rugby Union management committee at a meeting on Wednesday night. The committee was considering an application from the Sports Grounds committee for a loan of £250 in connection with the work. Mr. McLeod, said that the levelling of the playing area had been completed, and the carting of 800 yards of black soil for top dressing it was about to be commenced. With any luck, sowing would be commenced in about 10 days' time. The total cost was going to be about £600. It was expected that the ground would be ready for the visit of the Frenchmen about June or July of next year. The loan asked for was granted, arrangements to be made for repayment during next season so that the union would have its funds in hand when required.

DECEMBER 2, 1921

SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE
FUNDRAISING

The New Plymouth Sports Ground Committee met on Thursday evening, there being present: Messrs. A. L. Humphries (in the chair), J. McLeod, W. C. Weston, E. Jackson, F. C. Ferry, A. L. Roberts, F. J. Hill, J. Garcia and L. Little (secretary). Matters in connection with the entertainment to be held in Pukekura Park on the evening of Saturday, January 14, were discussed and preliminary details dealt with. Mr. Ferry was asked to take charge of the musical portion of the entertainment at which the Regimental Band is to be asked to assist. It was decided to arrange that the vocal items, etc., will be given from a float on the lake, and the arrangements for the float were left in the hands of Mr. Roberts. Messrs. Humphries and McLeod were appointed to arrange for the lighting.

TH, DECEMBER 7, 1921

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Herald office on Tuesday night, Mr. C. E. Bellringer presiding. There were also present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, H. Dempsey, A. T. Moore and P. E. Stainton, (secretary). An apology was received from Mr. H. Ford.

The New Plymouth Beautifying Society wrote expressing its hearty thanks to the board for its liberal donation of native shrubs for planting at Baines Terrace and on the slopes at the curve of the Carrington Road. The society also extended its thanks to the board for allowing the custodian (Mr. Bocock) to plant out the trees. He had been very enthusiastic and helpful and the society appreciated his work very much.

The chairman reported that a letter had been forwarded to the Park Tennis Club pointing out that Sunday play was taking place at the courts and that this was considered to be setting up a bad precedent. He understood that as the result of the letter the practice had now ceased. It was pointed out that no application had been before the board asking for its sanction to Sunday play.

It was decided that bathing in the upper lake be allowed on weekdays before 8 a.m. and after 5 p.m., and on Sundays up to 9.30 a.m. only.

The chairman said that general cleaning up had been continued in the park and it was decided to engage an extra man temporarily in order that the whole of the grass might be mowed before the holidays.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Hughes for drawing up the lease in connection with the occupation of the tea kiosk.

The next ordinary meeting of the board will be held in February, but it was decided to hold a special meeting in the park next week to attend to one or two matters.

The question of arranging for the sale of pine cones for the collection of seed was left in the hands of the secretary.

TH, DECEMBER 7, 1921
PLANT DONATION

At meeting of the Pukekura Park Board held on Tuesday evening a very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Wheeler for the gift of a choice hyacinth.

TH, DECEMBER 30, 1921
DAMAGE TO SPORTS GROUND

The sports committee which has charge of the work of re-laying and sowing of the sports ground at Pukekura Park, is very much annoyed at the damage which is being done by dogs to the young grass and to the surface of the ground. Great care was exercised in the levelling of the ground and the new grass is coming away splendidly, but unless something is done to keep dogs off then a lot of the work will be ruined. Two or three greyhounds have been seen galloping about the grounds of late, but until Thursday the committee was not aware of this fact or that damage was being done, and they have decided to immediately adopt a course of action to put a stop to the nuisance. Two members were unfortunate enough to just miss a couple of black hounds this morning. They came out of the grounds when the committeemen were but a few chains away from the entrance gates. One of these hounds was wearing a collar. However, a regular watch will be kept both at the sports ground and in the park itself, and an effort made to get hold of any dogs found at large. Owners will then be called upon to meet the cost any damage incurred and in the case of the owner or owners not being found the dogs will be destroyed.

1922

Three Board members died during 1922. Harris Ford who was a current member and had been on the Board since its inception in 1875, Stephenson Percy Smith who had served from 1902 until 1918 and F. P. Corkill who was a trustee from 1885 until 1916. Hector Dempsey and James McLeod were brought on to the committee as Government appointed trustees. Dempsey remained on the board until 1939 and McLeod until 1943.

Following a suggestion by the Sports Ground Committee of sharing a custodian the board hired Charles Revell, working two days a week on the sports ground and the balance in the park. They hired Revell because they wanted a younger person in the position of curator, so they laid-off Bocock who was in his late 60s. Unfortunately, Mr. Revell died of pneumonia, aged 44, in December 1922.

Children's swings were introduced for the first time, back then the park was seen as the domain of adults. C. E. Bellringer had visited the UK and noticed that all the public parks had children's play areas with swings etc. and promoted the idea of introducing them to Pukekura Park. The swings were installed somewhere north of fountain lake, possibly where the children's playground is today.

A New rose bed was introduced under the supervision of Hector Dempsey. The location of this bed is not clear.

The trout hatchery was now in full swing handling several hundred thousand trout ova per year. When the first trout ponds were opened in 1902, they received small fry which were fed for several months and when they reached a certain size (approx. 6 inches long) were released into local rivers. In the 1920s they received ova which were placed in the hatchery. When the eggs hatch the tiny fry, or alevin, have a yolk sack attached to their belly which they feed on for two to three weeks. These were released on mass in the local rivers a few days before their food sacks were exhausted, which meant they did not have to feed the fish; however, the mortality rate would have been very high. The eggs generally came from Rotorua and Hakataramea, near Oamaru.

The first rhododendron dell was planted in the park, the work of Charles Score Sanders, who supplied the plants and supervised their planting in what is now the eastern arm of Stainton Dell. Over two years he planted approximately seventy different varieties of rhododendron in this area. Some may still exist today. A fernery was also established in Stainton Dell by the Racecourse Walk.

The 1920s was a time of depression and high unemployment and the park board got involved in a subsidised scheme to give work to some of these unfortunate men. They pledged to give pound for pound raised by the public to a maximum of £100. They targeted the neediest, particularly returned servicemen and married men with children. The main work carried out with the extra labour was the cleaning out of the main lake and preparing an area for the fernery.

The Sports ground Committee were preparing for phase two of the redevelopment of the Sports Ground. With the pitch completed the next phase was to increase the number of terraces. This would be achieved by reworking what was already there. The plan was also to eventually construct a changing room incorporating toilet facilities.

Section 1117 on Fillis Street was purchased giving access to Kindergarten Gully.

The main lake in Pukekura Park in 1922 must have been a lot cleaner than today. It is hard to imagine Seventh day Adventists today performing submersion baptism, as they did back then.

Donations to the park were generally accepted with open arms, ducks, swans, plants etc., but to two lion cubs they unfortunately had to say no to.

Plant Donations Included:

Charles Score Sanders, rhododendrons; Duncan & Davies, flowering gums; Mr. Newton King, Japanese irises; F. J. Morshead, rhododendrons; Richard Cock, pohutukawas; Mrs. Gordon, irises.



Bathing Shed & Tea House, *Auckland Weekly News*, February 22, 1922



Seventh Day Adventists Being Baptised By Submersion, *Auckland Weekly News*, February 2, 1922

TH, JANUARY 6, 1922
SPORTS GROUND IMPROVEMENTS
SPORTS GROUND.
IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.

A meeting of the New Plymouth Sports Ground Committee was held on Thursday evening to deal with matters connected with the progress of the improvements at present being made to the playing area. So far most satisfactory results have attended the work, and with a continuation of good weather and a careful prosecution of the work in hand, it is confidently anticipated that the ground will be quite ready for playing on during the coming season. A splendid take of grass has been obtained, but the couch has made its appearance, and it is intended to have a working bee to-morrow afternoon to eradicate this before the ground is rolled. Already a number of those interested have promised to assist, and as many more workers who will give a couple of hours' time to-morrow afternoon will be welcomed. The committee are aiming to make the ground at least the best sports arena in the province, and they have spared no expense in the initial part of the work. The scheme which they have approved is a comprehensive one, and includes further improvements of the ground and also the appointments, and this will involve still further expenditure. It is considered, however, that, as the result will certainly make the place still more an attraction both to townspeople and to visitors, the outlay is fully justified.

As a means of raising further funds for the carrying out of the project an open-air entertainment has been arranged, and by the courtesy of the Park Board will place in the park on Saturday evening, the 14th inst. The arrangement of the programme is in hands of Mr. F. C. Ferry, who has secured the support of a number of well-known local singers, and the Regimental Band has also promised to help. The admission will be one shilling for adults and sixpence for children. Further particulars will be announced later.

TH, JANUARY 16, 1922
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Yesterday morning in the lake, in Pukekura Park, the Seventh Day Adventists performed the solemn and Sacred rite of baptism by immersion in its placid waters, when seventeen candidates went forward, nine brethren and eight sisters. The ceremony was performed by pastor W. Gillis, in the presence of about 400, comprising campers and visitors from the town. The weather proved propitious, and the beautiful surroundings presented a striking scene as candidate after candidate was buried after the example of their master in the watery grave. Adventists believe that the scriptural message of baptism is emersion, presenting spiritual death, burial, and resurrection to a new life.

TH, JANUARY 16, 1922
SPORTS GROUND FUNDRAISING

There was a very large attendance at the open-air concert given in Pukekura Park on Saturday evening in aid of funds for the improvement of the sports ground. The weather proved ideal for such an entertainment, the evening being mildly warm and the atmosphere very still, though a trifle heavy. It is estimated that there must have been about 1800 people present, and the gate receipts were approximately £60. The programme was an excellent one and found an appreciative audience. Items were given by the Regimental Band under Bandmaster Lowe, songs by Mrs. F. C. Ferry, Messrs. F. Baird, and P. Fredric, a quartette by the Melody Four (Messrs. F. Hooker, W. P. Okey, A. L. North and A. B. Macdonald), a euphonium solo by Bandsman Kay, and a trombone trio by Bandsmen Kay, Feek and Handley. The accompaniments were played by Mrs. P. Fredric. There have been many comments heard on the success and enjoyableness of the concert and hopes expressed that other entertainments of a like character will be arranged during the remainder of the summer season.

TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1922
SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE

A meeting of the New Plymouth Sports Grounds Committee was held on Monday evening, Mr. A. L. Humphries presiding over a good attendance. A very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. F. C. Ferry, who had organised the recent concert in Pukekura Park. A report was presented with reference to the improvements to the sports ground, general satisfaction being expressed at the wonderful way in which the new grass had come along. In fact it was explained that that day the grass had been mown and was of sufficient quantity to warrant it being carted away for making hay or ensilage.

The question of arranging any casual labour necessary was left in the hands of the chairman.

With a view to improving the boundary lines of the sports ground, Messrs. Duncan and Davies have generously donated a number of flowering gums. The committee would be glad to receive similar donations from others interested in the general improvement of the grounds.

It was decided to arrange for a concert in the park on Saturday evening March 11, and Messrs. J. Kenny and F. C. Ferry will be asked to take charge of the musical part of the programme.

If satisfactory arrangements can be made there will also be a fireworks display during the evening.

TH, FEBRUARY 8, 1922
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presiding. There were also present Messrs. R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, A. T. Moore, and P. Stainton (secretary).

The Returned Soldiers' Association was granted permission to hold a concert in the park one night this week, with the object of raising funds towards providing a new club.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. F. Harrison for the loan of a boat for use on the lake.

The Taranaki Croquet Association was granted permission to make a charge for admission to the Park Croquet grounds during the forthcoming tournament.

The secretary reported that from December 31 to February 6 the revenue from the boats amounted to £32 10s, which was easily a record for any similar period.

It was decided to hold a special meeting in the park on Monday of next week to attend to a number of questions.

The chairman was authorised to arrange for the ploughing of the old maze and clearing away of all rubbish so that this portion of the park might be transformed into an additional playground for the children. (present day Rhododendron Dell).

TDN, MARCH 6, 1922
PROGRESS WITH SPORTS GROUND.

Good progress is being made with the returfing of the recreation sportsground at New Plymouth. The sportsground committee has during the past few months has spent some hundreds of pounds in remaking the playing area of the sportsground, which when completed within the next few weeks will be unrivalled as a playing area in the Dominion. Hundreds of yards of subsoil and virgin black soil have been purchased and spread on a perfectly graded foundation, re-drained, and sown, until today, after only four months' work, the ground, instead of being locked up for a season, will be available within two or three weeks of the commencement of the football season in April. Work is now being concentrated on the area outside the football field, providing a perfect cricket outfield, and a level running and cycling track. It is hoped to have this work almost ready for sowing by the end of March, but more money is required. With the exception of one concert promoted by the Committee on January 11 this year (the first of the open-air concerts conducted in the park) the committee has not worried the public for money, having for the whole work arranged their own finance. Another £100 will complete the whole of the work in hand for this year, and the committee confidently expects that by providing a first-class programme of music, their second concert on the lake will be not the less splendidly patronised than was the first. It is intended on this occasion to erect a stage on the Poet's Bridge, and to ensure the acoustics by erecting a roof and sides to the stage. The programme, an ambitious one, will be advertised within a few days, and the committee hopes that all supporters will note to keep next Saturday, 11th inst., free for a couple of hours' genuine

enjoyment amidst the restful surroundings of the park.

TH, MARCH 8, 1922

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, those present, being: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, W. F. Short and H. Dempsey.

The chairman reported that the improvements to be effected by the Sports Committee included a proposal to replace the present, iron fence bounding on Fillis Street, with a more substantial wall. To do this, however, it would be necessary to encroach on part of Fillis Street, but there should be no difficulty, as the consent of property-owners in the street, he understood, would be forthcoming. It was decided to approach the Borough Council to secure their consent to a proposal to encroach on part of the street, the proposal being to enclose a width of about 15 feet.

It was decided that the board should hold a special meeting at the park on Monday afternoon next to go into general matters connected with the grounds.

A Vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Sheppard, of the Hygienic Bakery, for donations of bread for feed for the waterfowl.

The chairman's action in granting the Sports Committee permission to hold a concert in the park on Saturday night was approved.

TH, MARCH 13, 1922

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

One of the most enjoyable concerts ever given in Pukekura Park was that of Saturday night, which was in aid of the fund for improving the sports ground. The night was clear and fine, and the scene in the park was an exceedingly beautiful one. The 4th Battalion Band marched to the park and gave two selections from the band rotunda. The concert party was stationed at the opposite end of the big lake, where the water narrows and is spanned by the Poet's Bridge. The bridge was lighted and draped, and at intervals flares were sent up into the sky. The programme was an excellent one, and all those who contributed to it were given a hearty reception. The setting was particularly suited to the instrumental items, and of these a banjo solo and a mandoline solo were greatly enjoyed. The programme consisted of songs by Mrs. F. C. Ferry, Sergt. -Major Gill. Mr. Baden Bellringer, Mr. P. Fredric; mandoline solo, Sgt-Major Shepherd; banjo solo, Mr. Allan E. Martin; cornet solo, Bandsman Kay; violin solo, Mr. Rupert George; euphonium solo, Bandsman Lowe. The gate takings amounted to approximately £40.

TH, MARCH 25, 1922

DOGS IN THE PARK

The Pukekura Park curator complains that dogs are worrying the wild fowl there. Of five birds reared away and placed in the grounds on Tuesday, two already have disappeared. The birds are

a great attraction to visitors, and the public are urged to co-operate with the board in protecting them. On Friday a lady passing through the grounds saw a dog crossing the sports ground with a duck in its mouth. Will this person kindly communicate with the curator so that the board may have a description of the dog? Owners of dogs are warned that poison will now be laid in the grounds.

TDN, APRIL 5, 1922

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met last night. Present Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), V. Griffiths, W. F. Short, H. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston and A. T. Moore.

The curator (Mr. Boccock), in the course of his report, stated that the ground at the racecourse end of the park had been prepared for the planting of rhododendrons, whilst general work had also been carried out during the month.

The chairman reported that a special meeting of the board, held at the park, had mapped out work for the next few weeks, including, besides general maintenance, work in the rose-garden.

It was decided not to buy from the owner a boat at present in use on the lake, but an offer was made to house it free of charge during the winter months.

Mr. Griffiths was authorised to make a sketch for a rustic entrance at the Carrington Road gate. It is proposed to do the work in macrocarpa, a quantity of which the board has in its possession.

The sum of £6 4s 3d, being the board's share of two concerts held recently at the park, was received from the Returned Soldiers' Association, to whom a vote of thanks was accorded.

The annual meeting of the board will be held next month.

EXTRA NOTES FROM TH REPORTS

It was reported that preparatory work in connection with the rhododendron dell was well forward, and that the trees would be planted in the coming season by Mr. C. Sanders, who has kindly undertaken to look after the dell.

AUCKLAND STAR, APRIL 19, 1922

OBITUARY.

STEPHENSON PERCY SMITH A PIONEER IN TWO SENSES.

To few of the rising generation does the name of S. Percy Smith convey anything. It is some years since the name had a wide publicity as that of the Surveyor-General, and the other field in which it was prominent is one in which not many young New Zealanders are interested. For two reasons the late Mr. Percy Smith is entitled to remembrance. He was one of the pioneers who came to New Zealand in the early days and helped to break in the country for the present generation. When he entered the public service, New Zealand was an infant colony, and he lived to see it take a rightful place among the young and tried nations of the world. He was a pioneer in another sense, an enthusiastic, untiring, and able investigator into the history of the Maori race and the ethnological problems it raises. Not only

did he embody the results of some of his researches in valuable books, but he founded the Polynesian Society, an organisation designed to further the Study of Pacific ethnology. No one would say that New Zealanders have paid sufficient attention to the fascinating subjects of Maori origins, Maori history and Maori art, sociology and mythology, and they will some day be sorry for their neglect; just as Australians will regret that they did not take more interest in the aboriginals of their own country. Fortunately, there have been men like Mr. Percy Smith who out of pure love of knowledge and truth, were prepared to devote themselves to the study of the Maori before the older generation of Maoris passed away, and while the energies of Europeans were so involved in the development of the country that little encouragement was given to research and little interest taken in it. It is to these men that we owe what will always be part of the foundation of the study of the Maori race. They knew a type of Maori that has become almost extinct, and so worked among material that will not be available to future students. There is still great deal of work to be done in Maori history and lore and in tracing the connection between the pre-European inhabitants of New Zealand and other peoples of the Pacific. Other hands will do the work so well begun by the pioneers. In its combination of public service and enthusiasm for research, the career of Mr. Percy Smith is a fine example for young New Zealanders to follow.

TDN, APRIL 20, 1922

ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY AGM (EXTRACT)

The following report will be presented at the annual meeting of the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society to be held at New Plymouth this evening:—

In presenting the 59th annual report the executive are pleased to be able to congratulate the Society upon its improved position.

The trout hatchery in Pukekura Park has more than justified its existence. During the last hatching season some 70,000 Rainbow and 200,000 Brown trout ova were successfully handled, the former being a grant from the Government, were obtained from strong fish at Rotorua. The Brown trout ova came from the Hakatamea Hatchery in the South Island and were especially selected on account of the good and virile stock in those waters. The percentage of natural losses from malforms, etc., was very low and from other sources practically nil, which is a record the Society may well be proud of, and was made possible alone by the unremitting and highly skilled care exercised by Mr. W. J. Bell, who undertook the management of the hatchery as a labour of love. The Society is under a deep obligation to Mr. Bell and is very sensible of it. In this work Mr. Bell was ably assisted by Mr. Bowen and members of the council. As a consequence of the above, the streams of North Taranaki received the heaviest stocking that has ever been achieved by

the Society in one year, and the whole of the liberation was also carried out gratuitously by members of the council with assistance of local Sportsmen, and this includes the cost of transportation of the large number of fish to the following rivers:-

Brown Trout.—Waiongona, the Ngataras, Maketawa, Waiwakaiho, and tributaries, Tapuae, Kaihihi, Warea, Waiweranui, Kopuwaia, Oaonui rivers, Waiaua, Taungatara.

Rainbow Trout.—Stony River, Okaiha.

For this season the council have ordered 200,000 Brown trout ova from Hakataramea and 50,000 Rainbow ova from Rotorua. It is the aim of the council to make the rivers of North Taranaki famous throughout the Dominion, and a very few years at the present rate should achieve the object.

The past fishing season has been somewhat spoilt by the abnormal rainfall causing the rivers to be very frequently flooded and unfishable, but from all quarters come reports of good bags and a good stock of fish.

TDN, APRIL 21, 1922
OPOSSUMS IN THE PARK

The question of licenses for killing opossums was mentioned by a speaker at last night's meeting of the Taranaki Acclimatation Society. Mr. D. McAllum said he did not know if it was generally known that these animals were protected. There were some opossums in Pukekura Park and he had heard of a party who was going there at night to slaughter them. The president of the society (Mr. C. G. Grover) said the council had recommended that the season for opossums should be the three winter months, during which their coats were ready for taking. However, no notice had been received from the Government. The society was ready to move when the new regulations came to hand. Another speaker (Mr. C. M. Hill) pointed out that in some parts of Taranaki opossums had become such a nuisance that the settlers were compelled to take action. The animals played havoc with the imported trees in the spring. The question was raised as to whether a property owner was at liberty to destroy the animals without a license, and regulation read to the meeting showed that the occupier of an orchard could take action providing notice was given of such intention.

TH, APRIL 21, 1922
OBITUARY.
HARRIS FORD.

A well-known old identity of New Plymouth in the person of Mr. Harris Ford passed away this morning in his 82nd year. Mr. Ford came out from Home in 1851 with his father Mr. Samuel Ford, and family by, we believe, the barque Cashmere, landing at Auckland and coming on to New Plymouth, where Mr. Ford, senior, established himself in business as a saddler in premises which stood in Devon Street, about where Messrs. McLeod and Slade's printing works now

stand. Mr. Samuel Ford met his death just before the outbreak of the Maori war in 1860, being shot down by Natives at Omata. Mr. Harris Ford, who was then in Auckland, in a grocery business, was sent for to take charge of his father's business, and later he removed to Brougham Street, where he continued to carry on until a year or two ago when the premises were sold. Since then he has lived in retirement, doing only a little work at his trade with his son.

Besides taking his part in the Maori war, Mr. Ford devoted considerable time to Public and semi-public affairs, more particularly in connection with the Recreation Ground Board, of which he was one of the original members, continuing to hold office up to the present time. When some 50 years or so ago there were rumours of gold in the Kaitake Ranges, Mr. Ford took an active interest in the prospecting which was carried on. A man of sterling character he was highly respected and had many friends who will learn of his death with sincere regret.

TH, MAY 1, 1922
FUNDRAISING

The Battalion Band gave a recital in Pukekura Park on Sunday afternoon. The weather was fine and there was a large attendance, the excellent programme submitted being keenly appreciated. By request Bandsman Taylor contributed a cornet solo "Australis," which was admirably rendered, the soloist being heartily applauded. A Collection on behalf of the Park Board funds realised. £16 12s.

TH, MAY 3, 1922
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presiding. There were also present Messrs. W. C. Weston, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (secretary). An apology was received from Mr. R. C. Hughes.

The chairman explained that as the result of the work carried out at the sports ground and the shifting back of the fence on the western side of the playing field it would be necessary to effect some improvements to the pathway bordering the grounds. He made certain suggestions as to what he considered to be the best method of carrying out the work, but it was decided to confer with the Sports Ground Committee before arriving at any definite conclusions on the matter.

A report detailing the work carried out in the park during the past month was read. It was reported that the collection taken up at the band concert on Sunday afternoon on behalf of the board's funds had resulted in £16 12s being raised. It was decided to write to the band expressing the board's appreciation.

Mr. Dempsey reported that the new rose-bed had been prepared and was now being planted. Further work in this connection was left in the hands of Mr. Dempsey.

The board agreed to a suggestion that two swings be erected on the lawn near the Gilbert Street entrance, and Messrs. Short and Dempsey were authorised to have the work carried out.

It was stated that during the past year the revenue from the boats in the large lake had amounted to £88 16s 9d.

The chairman stated that there were two vacancies among the Government nominees of the board, and after some discussion Mr. Bellringer gave notice of intention to move at next meeting of the board recommending the appointment of Mr. H. Dempsey, who had already done good work as a Borough Council nominee on the board, and Mr. J. McLeod, who had rendered valuable services as a member of the Sports Ground Committee.

Preparatory work in connection with the fernery and the rhododendron dell is now well in hand.

TH, MAY 5, 1922
SPORTS GROUND UPDATE
FROM COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the New Plymouth Sports Ground Committee was held on Thursday evening, Mr. A. L. Humphries, chairman, presiding over a good attendance.

Dealing with the improvements which had been carried out to date the chairman reported that the cost of the work amounted to £621 and that with the sum of £250 borrowed from the Taranaki Rugby Union the committee was in a position to meet this liability.

Over 1500 yards of earth had been spread over the ground during the work of relaying the playing area, which had now been brought up to its original level. The grass had come away well, the playing area being in excellent condition, while a splendid strike had resulted in that portion of the ground just outside the playing area, which was only recently filled in, levelled, and sown. Mr. Humphries added that for the time being everything that could be done had been done.

General satisfaction was expressed with the work that had been carried out and with the position as disclosed by the chairman.

The chairman reported that the Park Board had given permission to cut off the lower limbs of a large part and to fell two or three other trees near the Fillis Street frontage which were shading a portion of the playing field. This would be a great improvement. The matter was left in the hands of a sub-committee.

TH, MAY 5, 1922
SPORTS GROUND RE-OPENING

To-morrow will witness the re-opening of the sports ground at Pukekura Park, after the improvements made by the committee since last winter. The ground has been ploughed, levelled and drained, and re-sown with grass, with very satisfying results, and it is gratifying indeed that, those in control of the grounds have been able to get them in readiness for use so soon. This ground is

undoubtedly one of the finest playing areas in the Dominion, and the committee of control may be sure of the support of the public in the policy of improvement which they have adopted. To-morrow the Clifton-Tukapa A grade football match will be played there, and as a curtain-raiser the same club's third grade teams will play at 1.15 p.m.

TDN, MAY 30, 1922
TICKET BOXES FOR THE SPORTS GROUND

The application of the sports ground committee for permission to erect two ticket-boxes at the Liardet Street entrance to Pukekura Park was the subject of a deputation from the committee, consisting of Messrs. L. Little and J. Kenny. Mr. Little explained that it was not intended to leave the boxes in the street permanently. They were to be made in sections, so that they could be erected for each entertainment and dismantled afterwards. The council decided to grant permission on the conditions outlined by the deputation.

TH, JUNE 7, 1922
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD AGM ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, H. Dempsey, A. T. Moore.

Apologies were received from V. Griffiths and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The chairman's annual report was as follows: -

The passing of another year brings with its going the duty of presenting to you my annual resume of the affairs and doings of the board. Thanks to the fine effort of Mrs. Burgess and those associated with her in the special effort of 1920, we have had no financial anxieties, neither has it been necessary for us to reduce our staff or restrict our plans. The balance sheet will be laid before you tonight and from it you will obtain a clear conception of the financial affairs of the board. The regular income including the borough subsidy was £457 0s 4d: five payments of subsidy moneys were made by the Borough Council during this year making the sum received £312 10s instead of the usual £250, this is due to only three payments having appeared in our last balance-sheet; £200 were drawn down from the special fund at the New Plymouth Savings Bank. The balance of this fund at March 31 was £534 3s 4d, interest amounting to £34 3s 4d having accrued. The Burgess Trust Fund of £300 has also been credited with interest amounting to £29. The Hulke Endowment Fund of £100 stands as at the last balance, the interest on this amount being paid to the general account. The assets in bank accounts and investments are £1014 11s 8d with no liabilities. I think we may congratulate ourselves on the happy condition of our finances. The balance sheet has been audited by Mr. C. H.

Wynyard, public auditor, who has generously donated his fee to the board.

Works. - The outstanding feature of the year is the outstanding work done by the Sports Committee in raising, grading and re-grassing the sports ground. This work has greatly improved the Liardet Street approach to the park and the playing area bids fair to be one of the finest in the Dominion. The committee have but begun the work they have in view, and are contemplating extensive improvements in the near future. The board has every reason to be pleased with the work of the committee and will continue to support and facilitate their good designs and endeavours.

Fernery. - The preliminary work of grading and shaping the ground for the fernery has been done. The planting of the ferns will be put in hand at once. I feel sure that this additional attraction of the park in a short time will be greatly enjoyed and valued.

Rhododendron Dell. - The ground has been cleared for the Rhododendron Dell immediately adjoining the racecourse. Mr. C. Sanders had the young trees purchased last year and other trees donated by himself and friends, under careful personal supervision. He proposes to plant them in the dell shortly.

A suggestion was made by a visitor some weeks ago that we should plant the iris in suitable spots. This suggestion had been anticipated by the board some months previously, Mr. Newton King having kindly promised a donation of iris from his splendid collection for that purpose. These will be planted when available.

Rosary. - A new location has been chosen for the rosary. The old site is much too damp. The new collection has been planted by Mr. Dempsey assisted by the staff, and we may look forward to a fine display of the "queen of flowers" adding to the beauty of the park.

Tea rooms. - The arrangement made with Mrs. Webb in connection with the tea kiosk has overcome the former difficulty experienced in this matter. Mrs. Webb informs me that she is satisfied, and the board now has the kiosk turned into a source of income. About £140 were spent in repairs and overhaul last year.

Future work. - I have already indicated the fernery, rhododendron dell and iris beds promise to be the special work of the current year but planting generally will also have to be done. We have a fine collection of young trees in the nursery; many of these will be ready for planting this season.

Members. - Vacancies were created by the resignation of Mrs. C. H. Burgess and the death of Mr. Harris Ford. Mrs. Burgess did yeoman service as a member, and Mr. Harris Ford ever since the constituting of the board had given of his best in its service.

I have to thank the honorary secretary (Mr. P. E. Stainton) and all the members of the board for advice and assistance whenever asked for. We are also

indebted to the staff for the good work accomplished.

ACCOUNTS

The statement of accounts and expenditure fore the year ending March 31 last was as follows: -

Receipts. - To balance £88 13s 9d, New Plymouth Savings bank £200, Borough subsidy £312 10s, boat receipts £79 8s 9d, sundry rents £69 7s 9d, donations £13 12s 6d, concerts £11 14s, interest £5 4s 3d, timber sold £27 13s 1d; total £808 4s 1d.

Liabilities. - Nil.

Assets. - By bank balance £51 7s 8d, Burgess Trust Fund £300, Burgess Trust Fund interest £28 0s 8d, Govett Estate £100, New Plymouth Savings Bank £534 3s 4d; total 1013 11s 8d.

Satisfaction was expressed at the result of the year's operations and the report and statement of accounts were approved.

GENERAL

The committee appointed to confer with Sports Ground Committee with reference to the appointment of a joint custodian, reported that a conference had been held and that it was unanimously agreed that Mr. C. Revell be appointed custodian at a salary of £4 5s per week. The Sports Committee to pay the board £75 per annum in quarterly payments; Mr. Revell to give two days on an average to the sports ground. That Mr. Bocock's engagement with the board be terminated as from June 1.

The action of the committee was confirmed. Members expressed appreciation of the service rendered by Mr. Bocock during the time he had been custodian and made it quite clear that the only reason which had prompted them to arrive at this decision was that it was felt it would be in the interests of the park to have a younger man in charge.

A very cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and the secretary for their valued services during the year was passed.

EXTRA NOTES FROM TDN REPORTS

The chairman's notice of motion that Mr. Dempsey be appointed to the board to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs. Burgess and Mr. J. McLeod be appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Harris Ford, was carried.

TH, JUNE 29, 1922

FOOTBALL
THE ASSOCIATION GAME.
AUSTRALIA 6, TARANAKI 1.

There was an attendance of about 4000 at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, on Wednesday to witness the international match as above. The play was interesting, though to very many of the spectators, some of the work was unintelligible, owing to their ignorance of the rules. The visitors played with fine combination and won comfortably by six goals to one, the latter being shot towards the end of the game by Freakly.

TH, JULY 4, 1922
UNEMPLOYMENT.
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD.
SUBSIDY ON PUBLIC
SUBSCRIPTIONS.

A special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Monday morning to consider the question of undertaking some work at the park with a view to providing employment for men who are at present in need of work. There were present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, H. Dempsey and P. Stainton (secretary).

The chairman explained that he had called the meeting to give the members an opportunity of discussing whether the board should do anything to assist in providing employment for men who were out of work. He said there were at present three extra men employed at the park, two of whom were returned soldiers and the other was a married man with several children. The position so far as the board was concerned was that each year they had to spend about £200 more than the ordinary income. Last year the board spent £500 on labour and about £100 on sundries. The ordinary revenue consisted of the borough subsidy of £250, about £70 from the hire of boats, and £80 from rents, and donations brought up the limit of ordinary income to £450. If something was to be done for unemployed men it would have to be out of a special fund. The present position of the board's fund was that at the beginning of its year there would be a credit of about £585 in the bank. He thought they might undertake to subsidise a fund raised for this purpose up to £100 or £150. He was quite sure the Sports Ground Committee would co-operate with them by arranging a football match on an off Saturday towards the end of the season which would produce a gate worth probably £150. Mrs. C. H. Weston was moving in the matter of raising funds to assist these men, and the chairman said that Mr. McLeod had stated he did not think there would be any difficulty in arranging a football match on a suitable Saturday. He therefore thought the board should offer to subsidise up to about the sum mentioned any money raised for this purpose. Mr. Bellringer pointed out there was plenty of work to be done at the park which would be of benefit to the grounds, to the community and to the men in need and, he felt confident the public would respond to an appeal in this direction. He thought they might reasonably contemplate providing four more men with employment at the ordinary rates of pay.

Mr. Weston supported the chairman and said he thought the board should act at once in offering such a subsidy. There was the valley leading up to the racecourse where work could be put in hand that would be of a permanent character and there was also the clearing and lowering of the lake, and he also believed the public would support the proposal, readily and generously.

Mr. Stainton pointed out that it would be necessary to look ahead also to the work of maintenance if these new areas were

cleared and opened up. He approved of the idea, but said they would have to face the position of increasing their general revenue in the future.

Mr. Bellringer agreed that it would be necessary to employ more men in the future to properly keep up the Grounds; he thought they would want at least two more men for the purpose and an effort would have to be made to provide the extra revenue required. He was not afraid, however, that the public would not respond. Anything that was for the improvement of the park had always appealed to the people of the town. He was sure too that the Sports Ground Committee, who were a very live body, would co-operate with them.

Mr. Hughes said he thought the scheme would be spoiled if the men they proposed to employ were to be paid full-rate wages. He did not think the board should enter into competition with the ordinary employers of labour. It would be a mistake to make the work the board had to offer so attractive that men would come running after it and expect the board to keep them going indefinitely. He considered it purely relief work and if men were hard up they would be willing to accept 10s a day, and so the work could be spread over a longer period, or more men could be employed.

Mr. Weston said he did not think 10s a day was enough for men with families, and he was sure the public would not subscribe so well if men were going to be paid a low rate of wage. He also pointed out that some men had been out of work for some little time and had some leeway to make up. He thought they should seek to prevent the idea of creating relief work and paying low wages in New Plymouth.

Mr. Hughes said his purpose was to conserve the funds of the board and make the money go as far as possible.

The chairman said he did not believe in taking advantage of the men's position to get them to work for lower wages. They should take the men who were most in need and expect a fair day's work for the standard wage. He thought they would get better results from men at 12s a day than by employing more men at 10s on what would be regarded as relief work. It would be a mistake to make the men feel they were getting something for which they were not giving a fair return.

In reply to Mr. Dempsey, the chairman said the board were at present employing six men, three of whom were extra.

After some further discussion it was decided to subsidise by £1 for £1 up to £100, any money raised by the public for purpose of employing extra labour in the park, and that five more men in addition to the three extra at present employed, be given work, Messrs. Dempsey and Short being appointed to confer with Mr. Revell, the overseer, in the selection of applicants for work. It was intimated that other things being equal preference would be given to returned soldiers.

A sub-committee, consisting of the chairman and Messrs. Dempsey, Short and Hughes, was appointed to decide the work to be undertaken at the park.

STRATFORD EVENING POST

JULY 8, 1922

OVA IN HATCHERY

Consignments of 100,000 brown trout ova from Christchurch and 40,000 rainbow ova from Rotorua have been received by the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society and are now on the hatching trays in the Pukekura Park hatchery. The remaining 40,000 rainbow ova ordered by the society are expected by the mail train to-night. A further 100,000 brown trout ova from the Kakataramea (Hakataramea) hatchery are due to arrive during the next few days, making 280,000 in all to be hatched and liberated this season.

TH, JULY 11, 1922

PARK EMPLOYS UNEMPLOYED

The Pukekura Park Board have engaged an additional five men upon work in the park, which now makes a staff of eight men more than the ordinary permanent employees. The men have proved good workers, and their assistance has enabled the board to have the lake thoroughly cleaned out, a work which needed doing very urgently. The men are now to be put on to the clearing of the valley leading up to the racecourse. The Park Board has engaged the men, who were in great need of employment trusting to the public to come to their assistance in providing money, which the board will subsidise from their funds, and thus enable them to keep the men in work for several weeks.

TH, JULY 11, 1922

DUCK KILLS RAT

The workmen engaged in cleaning up the lake at Pukekura park the other day were very much amused at the attack made upon a water-rat by one of the Muscovy ducks in the lake. The rat was disturbed by the workmen, and essayed to swim to the other side of the lake. On the way across, however, he was attacked by the duck, who when he got him fairly in his beak, ducked him under the water several times, and finally laid his dead remains out on the bank on the other side of the lake.

TDN, JULY 25, 1922

IMPROVING PUKEKURA PARK

At Pukekura Park work has been found for the last three weeks for about eight unemployed, under the supervision of the overseer of the park, Mr. Revell. That the men have not been idle is evidenced from the amount of work already done. The first job undertaken was the cleaning out of the main lake, and it is now free from the objectionable weeds which for so long marred its beauty. The reflection on the waters as viewed from the second bridge yesterday was very striking. Near the head of the lake the totara plantation has been cleared of weeds and undergrowth, and now the men are engaged on the formation of a fernery to the left of the racecourse walk. Banks have been cleared and stumps removed, and the side of the hill is being fenced in preparatory to putting in the ferns. As viewed from the path the ferns

will gradually rise from the smaller varieties to the tall tree ferns further back from the top of the banks. The fence is but a temporary structure to protect the plants until they have become established, when the fernery will be thrown open to the public. Further round a new path has been made to the rhododendron dell, which has been cleared of undergrowth. The lily pond has also been cleared out and got ready for several varieties of these picturesque flowers. Around the sports ground, too, the banks have been cleaned up, and during the coming season the whole of the park should present a very attractive picture.

TH, AUGUST 2, 1922

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), H. Dempsey, R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, and P. E. Stainton, (secretary).

The chairman stated that the subsidy on the money the board was spending in unemployment was assured, and that would mean they would have £200 to spend on definite work in the park. Up to the present the board had spent on this work about £90. The work was going on satisfactorily, and substantial improvement was being made.

Messrs. Dempsey and Short reported on the work that had been done and said the clearing out of the lake had made a very marked improvement in its appearance.

The chairman referred to the progress of the construction of the fernery and said this was now nearing a completion. It would be a very valuable addition to the attractions of the park. It would be necessary to make arrangements for the securing of ferns, and although permission was given to Mr. W. W. Smith some time ago to take ferns from the Egmont National Park, he thought fresh applications should be made to the board for such permission. It was agreed to do this, and also to seek permission to remove ferns from the Ratapihipihi reserve, and to effect some exchanges between the board and the Huatoki Domain Board in ferns in which the latter had, and which were not at present in the park.

The chairman reported that in regard to the planting of the rhododendron bed there were 70 varieties in hand for planting.

The authorising of the purchase of gum-boots for the men working in the lake, and also some tools, was approved.

It was decided to renew the bridges over the waterfall. The chairman suggested a scheme for the improvement of the stream between the lake and the waterfall, which he thought might well be undertaken in the near future, and he suggested the matter should be looked into by members in the meantime.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Newton King for a donation of Japanese irises.

TDN, AUGUST 8, 1922 GILBERT STREET CLOSED

Notice is hereby given that Gilbert Street, from Pukekura Park entrance Gates to Victoria Road, is temporarily closed to enable the gully to be filled in. F. E. Wilson (Mayor).

TH, SEPTEMBER 6, 1922

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presiding. There were also present Messrs. R. C. Hughes, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, J. McLeod. A. T. Moore and P. E. Stainton, secretary.

Apologies were received from Messrs. W. C. Weston and V. Griffiths.

The Department of Internal Affairs notified that the appointment of Messrs. H. Dempsey and J. McLeod to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation of Mrs. C. H. Burgess and the death of Mr. H. Ford, had been confirmed. Mr. Dempsey has been associated with the board as a representative of the Borough Council, and Mr. McLeod, who took his seat as a member for the first time was accorded a hearty welcome.

In response he said he was glad to be associated with the board and hoped to be of some assistance to the park.

The chairman reported that £231 9s had been spent in the park under the unemployment scheme, and as the allocation of £200 had been exceeded, the staff had again been reduced to its usual strength. Of the money spent £100 had been provided by way of subsidy from the unemployed funds.

The necessity for repairing and painting the boats on the lake for the summer season was mentioned, and it was decided to have the matter attended to.

It was decided to spend £10 on additional ferns for the fernery.

Votes of thanks were accorded the following donors of gifts: Mr. R. Cock, Mr. W. W. Smith and Mrs. W. F. Gordon, and Mr. Short for use of motor lorry.

Mr. Dempsey reported that, after making investigations, he had found a suitable site for the erection of swings for the children, near both the Carrington Road and Gilbert Street entrances. Messrs. Dempsey and Short have already been authorised to put the work in hand.

Mr. Dempsey was authorised to arrange for having levels taken with the object of draining portion of the gully near the racecourse.

In response to an application from the Borough Council it was decided to grant permission for the filling at Gilbert Street near the Carrington Road to encroach on the park, and it was agreed that the latter later be planted with ferns.

Other business of a routine nature was transacted, and a number of accounts passed for payment.

TH, SEPTEMBER 6, 1922

RECONSTRUCTION OF TERRACES

Mr. J. McLeod reported to the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday

evening that plans for the reconstruction of the terraces at the sports ground had been prepared. He said it was proposed to eliminate the bottom terrace, which would enable the running track to be increased from 390 to 411 yards. Instead of 7 ft. 6in. high terraces, a new series is to be constructed at a height of 4ft. 6in., thus doubling the accommodation.

TH, SEPTEMBER 12, 1922 RHODODENDRONS STOLEN

The sneak thief has been at work at Pukekura Park during the last few days, one or two choice rhododendrons having been stolen from the dell which is being formed. The board is endeavouring to provide a few special features at the park with the object of adding still further to its attractiveness, but such despicable acts as these are not by any means encouraging. Instead of things being stolen from the park every citizen and every visitor should recognise that they owe a duty to themselves and to the town and that is to protect public property. The board will be very glad of any information which will lead to the conviction of the culprit or culprits who have stolen the rhododendrons.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 29, 1922 TARANAKI ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

OPERATIONS AT HATCHERIES.

At a meeting of the Council of the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society last night the following report was received from Mr. W. J. Bell regarding hatching operations for 1922 at the Pukekura Park hatcheries:—

"Ova received: Brown 325,000; Rainbow, 100,000; 81,000 Rainbow from Rotorua; 100,000 Brown from North Canterbury; 175,000 Brown from Hakataramea; 50,000 Brown from Otago; 25,000 Rainbow from Otago; a total of 431,000.

"All the ova were received in very good order and hatched out well, but owing to the lake that supplies the hatchery with water being cleaned out, the water during the first six weeks of hatching operations was very bad, and to save the fry the society was obliged to liberate in the streams very soon after hatching. About 250,000 fry were liberated in this way, and as the rivers during this winter have been in very favourable condition for the young fry (there being no floods at all) these fry should, do well.

"As the season progressed the water greatly improved, and to make sure that everything else was quite right the fry boxes were dressed inside with Swedish pitch, and the remainder of the fry were liberated in an older stage, the later lots being very strong and healthy indeed. To make sure that there would be no recurrence of the bad water trouble, I think it advisable to have a pipe laid to the hatchery from the town supply, A one-inch pipe should be sufficient.

"All the fry have now been liberated in the local streams, except 25,000 Rainbow, which are being grown a little larger to be placed in the electric light dam at Opunake. All the hatching boxes,

trays and fry boxes (except those containing the 25,000 Rainbow) have been washed and dried, and the bitumen paint having arrived, they will receive their annual dressing during next week. The thanks of the society are due to all members who assisted so willingly with the liberating and at the hatchery during the season. Messrs. Bellringer Bros. have also donated a one-gallon tin of steelite paint for the roof of the hatchery.

Fry were liberated as follows:—

Brown trout fry, 25,000, Upper Waiwhakaiho; 40,000, middle reaches Waiwhakaiho; 40,000, Mangaoraka (Henwood Road); 25,000, Upper Waiwhakaiho and Mangorei; 80,000, Oakura, Timaru, Katikara and Kaihi; 50,000, Upper Waiongona; 15,000, Lower Waiongona; 15,000, Waiweranui and Warea; 20,000, Pungarere, Ohaihu and Oaonui; 15,000, Waiaua, Opanake. Total. 325,000.

Rainbow fry, 81000, Stony River at Okato; and 25,000 Rainbow fry are still at the hatchery to be grown a little larger for the electric light dam at Opanake. Total, 106,000. Grand total, 431,000.

A special vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Bell, H. Bowen and T. Wilson for their gratuitous work right through the hatching and liberating, these gentlemen having given their time daily for the past two months.

Messrs. Bellringer Bros. were also accorded a vote of thanks for their donation of paint.

A sub-committee consisting of the president (Mr. G. Grover) and Messrs. W. J. Bell and C. M. Hill was set up with power to act to arrange for an auxiliary supply of water for the hatcheries from the town water supply.

TH, OCTOBER 4, 1922

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), W. C. Weston, Jas. McLeod, W. F. Short, H. Dempsey, and R. C. Hughes. An apology for absence was received from Mr. A. T. Moore.

The question of providing some lifesaving appliances in the boats on the lake, or of arranging some system of signaling in the event of an accident occurring was referred to Mr. Dempsey to report upon.

The chairman reported that work in connection with the fernery had practically been completed for the present season. He also stated that the top pond had been cleaned out, and on his suggestion it was decided to expend a sum of £5 on water-lilies for planting in the pond. Mr. Bellringer advocated securing a coloured variety from Tryphena, Great Barrier.

Mr. Bellringer also reported the loss of three rhododendrons, valued at 7s 6d each, which had been taken from the grounds.

It was decided to invite tenders for the painting of the bridges and the bathing shed so that they may be renovated before the holidays.

The question of procuring swings for the use of children, which had been referred to Messrs. Dempsey and Hughes, was reported upon by Mr. Dempsey, who stated that after inspecting the equipment at the Kawaroa Park they had communicated with the makers of the swings supplied there, but as yet no reply had been received.

Accounts amounting to £20 8s 1d were passed for payment.

TH, OCTOBER 23, 1922

ATHLETICS.

LABOUR DAY SPORTS.

Fine, sunny weather has tempted many people to Pukekura Park to-day for the annual Labour Day sports gathering. Numerous picnic parties have taken advantage of the exceptional facilities offering, hot water being provided free. A coconut shy and a soft drinks booth are doing excellent business and are the centre of attraction for the young people. A welcome innovation for mothers is the children's committee which takes charge of the young people, sees they come to no harm and keeps them amused. The Taranaki Rifles Band and the Caledonian Pipe Band are in attendance. The sports programme is a comprehensive one, including cycling, foot racing, and piping and dancing competitions. An energetic body of officials is seeing to it that everything runs smoothly.

TH, NOVEMBER 8, 1922

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

Mr. C. E. Bellringer presided at the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday afternoon, others present being Messrs. W. F. Short, He Dempsey, W. C. Weston and P. Stainton (hon. secretary). It was decided to let a contract for the erection of two swings to an Auckland firm whose price was £8 10s. The chairman and Messrs. Short and Dempsey were authorised to accept tenders for the painting and repairing of the Poet's Bridge. The chairman reported that the water lilies ordered had arrived from Tryphena, Great Barrier, and had been planted.

The offer of Mr. F. J. Morshead to donate three rhododendrons to replace the two choice specimens recently appropriated from the park was accepted with thanks.

Two lion cubs for Pukekura Park were the subject of an indirect offer considered by the board. They were not accepted, however.

Arrangements are to be made for an evening concert in the park on December 2, at which items will be given by the band and vocalists.

TH, NOVEMBER 8, 1922

ROCKERY TO BE ADDED

A rockery is to be added to the many beauties of Pukekura Park. It is to be formed on the pathway at the side of the sports ground, approximately opposite the dressing shed, and when completed it will be in the centre of an oval drive. This decision was reached by Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, W. C.

Weston, H. Dempsey and P. Stainton, members of the board, who visited the park and selected the site this morning.

TH, DECEMBER 7, 1922

EXTRACTS FROM SPORTS COMMITTEE AGM

The annual meeting of the New Plymouth Sports Committee was held in Messrs. Collett and Company's offices on Tuesday night, Mr. A. L. Humphries presiding. Others present were Messrs. J. Clark, A. L. Roberts, F. C. Ferry, E. Jackson, L. B. Webster, J. Garcia, and E. Little (hon. secretary).

ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report stated:—

"I take the opportunity of congratulating members of the committee on the splendid work achieved during the period just passed. At the time of the last annual meeting the scheme of improvement to the playing area of the sports ground had only just been started, and the sum of £147 had been paid out in wages. Since that time a further sum of £341 has been paid out under the above heading. £158 for soil, £60 for grass seed and manures, making a total expenditure of £700. Included in this amount was the cost of top-dressing, approximately £75.

Although the amount expended on the ground may appear large, I think you will agree with me that the results have proved that the expenditure was warranted, as we now have what is generally considered one of the best sports grounds in the dominion. The new drainage scheme, on which a good deal of money was expended, has proved an undoubted success and providing the present levels of the ground are maintained, there should be no further trouble in this respect. Although the sowing was not completed until Christmas Eve last, the ground was ready for football in May, and was used continuously throughout the winter with little damage being done. The earnings from the ground alone for the six months from May to October were over £300, so that it would not be unreasonable to estimate the annual revenue for the future at £500.

I am pleased to be able to report that satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Pukekura Park Board, whereby the board's permanent staff will keep the sports ground in order. So as to get the best results, however, it will be necessary for this committee to provide the very best plant available, and I would recommend that this be secured as soon as possible. It was hoped to get the ground into order for cricket before December. This, unfortunately, owing to not being able to procure the necessary plant combined with the wet season, has not been done. However, the ground is now being scythed, immediately after which arrangements have been made to have it rolled, and it should be ready for use next week.

Now that the playing area is in order I hope that the committee will consider ways and means of providing better dressing shed accommodation, and the extension of the terraces. Messrs. Sladden and Palmer have already

prepared plans for the extension of the terraces, which provide accommodation for about 20,000 people, and in anticipation of these improvements being carried out in the near future the trees on the eastern terrace have already been removed."

TDN, DECEMBER 8, 1922

The death of Mr. C. Revell, of Vogeltown, occurred at the New Plymouth Hospital yesterday from pneumonia. The late Mr. Revell, who was aged 44 years, was well known in the town and surrounding district, his quiet unassuming manner having made him many friends. For some little time past Mr. Revell had been curator of Pukekura Park, where he had done splendid service. His widow and young family will have the sympathy of a wide

circle of friends in their sad bereavement.

**TDN, DECEMBER 27, 1922
CHRISTMAS CONCERT.**

A PLEASANT ENTERTAINMENT.

Twinkling electric lights and multi-coloured flare-lights together with its own natural charm and beauty, combined to give Pukekura Park a fairy-land appearance on Christmas night when a concert was given under the auspices of the New Plymouth Sports Ground Committee. Following a day full of sunshine came a delightfully fine moonlight night, which enticed many townspeople and visitors out-of-doors to the beautiful environment of the park, and the gate returns yielded £70, which represents an attendance of about 1500.

The New Plymouth Caledonian Pipe Band marched from town to the grounds, and under the charge of Drum-major Williamson gave several spirited tunes on the pipes. The vocalists of the evening sang from an illuminated platform on the Poet's Bridge, A cornet solo by Mr. Taylor opened the concert programme and like all who followed, he earned a recall; Mrs. Ferry and Mr. F. P. Frederic, vocal duet; Mr. Baden Bellringer (baritone); Miss Annie White (soprano); Mr. R. L. Lowe, euphonium solo; Mrs. Ferry, song. Proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.



The Hatchery building can be seen at the far end of the Lily Pond.
(Private Collection, Alan Metcalfe)

1923

Mr. G. Tunnecliffe was promoted to custodian following the death of Charles Revell. Presumably his duties were the same, looking after the park and the Sports Ground.

The Sports Ground Committee as part of its policy of improvements had a changing room designed. The architect was T. H. Bates, well known New Plymouth architect of the time. Bates was a keen cricketer and was on the Sports Ground Committee and was also the park's honorary architect. The building he designed was a cute single-story structure which still survives today (2022). If you peer through the doors of the Bellringer Pavilion the original building is hidden inside. It was built by Jones and Sandford. The drawings were donated by Bates who also supervised the construction. The building was subsequently modified twice, once in 1956 when a second story was added, then again in 1988 when the floor area was increased towards the playing field behind a new facade. This is what you can see today. The future of the building is uncertain as there are structural issues and it is susceptible to flooding. It was constructed in the first quarter of 1924.

Shags have always been a feature of the park, but their diet of fish from the park lakes was not welcome in those days and was often remedied by culling the birds.

Plant Donations Included:

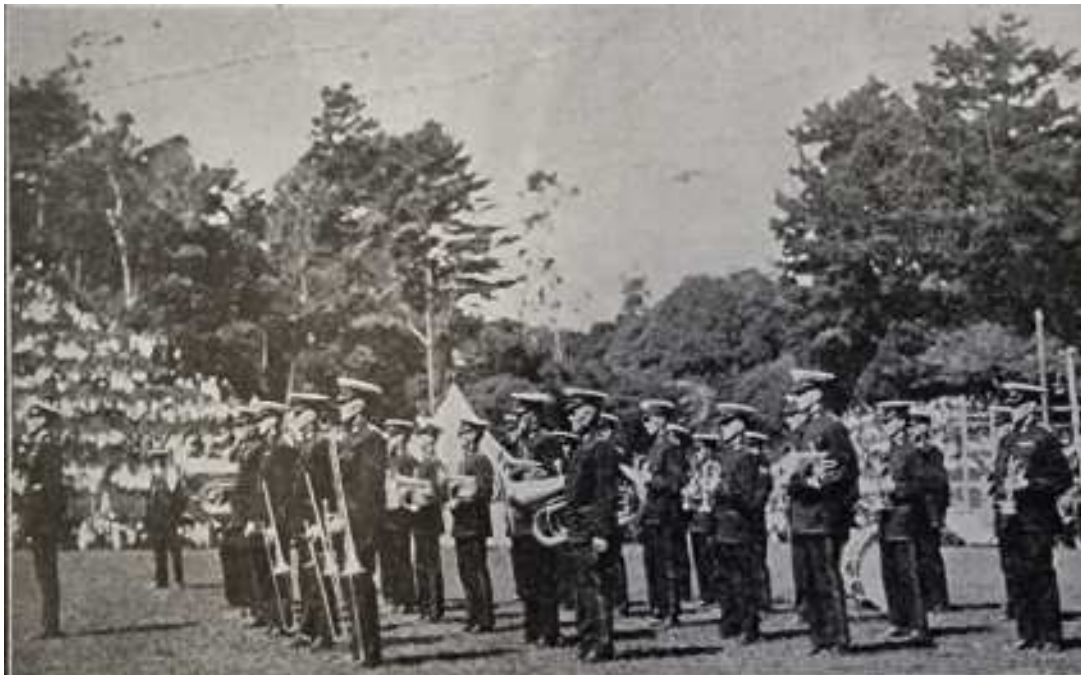
Miss Wade, ferns; Conservator of Forests, Rotorua, seeds of Burma bamboo



Scene showing cars parked outside new pavilion circa 1930 (Park Collection)



Main Lake – Pukekura Park. *Auckland Weekly News*, June 21, 1923



New Plymouth Band Paraded for Inspection at the North Island Band Contest
Auckland Weekly News, March 15, 1923

TH, FEBRUARY 3, 1923
BENEFIT CONCERT

Pukekura Park by moonlight is sufficiently beautiful to attract the average person at any time; but when, for the price of one shilling, a concert is provided also—and that consisting of all-star items—no lover of nature and musical art can be expected to stay at home. Thus, it is that this evening will find all New Plymouth at the Park—except such part of it that cannot get in—where the 4th Battalion Band and the best New Plymouth vocal talent are giving a complimentary benefit concert for Mr. Andy Hoskin, who is at present in hospital. Always ready to assist a deserving cause, the band excels itself when one of its members falls ill; and, considering the circumstances of Mr. Hoskin's illness, the band may be depended on to rise to musical greatness right from the opening, of the programme this evening.

TDN, FEBRUARY 7, 1923

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night Present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), H. Dempsey, R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, J. McLeod, A. T. Moore, and P. Stainton (hon. secretary).

The action of the chairman in authorising the purchase of the section known as Atkinson's, in Fillis Street, for £85 was confirmed.

The financial position of the board was quite secure, said the chairman, but it would be necessary to increase the revenue during the year. The secretary reported that the running of the park cost about £800 a year. The incoming revenue was about £400, leaving a deficiency of about £400 to be made up. The tender of F. G. Goldsworthy for painting the Poet's bridge and boating house at a cost of £44 11s. was accepted. The chairman said it was hoped to have the work finished by the time of the band contest.

As the boat revenue was growing and two boats were not sufficient for the busy season, the question of procuring another boat was discussed. It is expected that this season's boat revenue will exceed £100, as the last month has produced about £28. Messrs. Moore and Short were appointed to go into the matter and arrange, if possible, to procure an extra boat for use during the band contest week.

The present arrangement with the Park Tennis and Croquet club of paying an annual rental of £7 10s for grounds having expired, a committee, consisting of the chairman and secretary, was appointed to meet the tennis club to make new arrangements.

Attention was drawn to the fact that swings for children had been erected close to the Carrington Road and Gilbert Street entrances.

Votes of thanks were accorded Messrs. Sanford and Jones for their donation towards the children's playground, and to Messrs. Govett, Quilliam and

Hutchen for free drawing of deeds in connection with the section purchase.

TH, FEBRUARY 16, 1923
FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Two concerts will be given in Pukekura Park by the 4th Battalion Band during the weekend. The first on Saturday night is to be the bandsmen's complimentary benefit, and the programme will be made up of vocal and instrumental items. This will commence at 8 O'clock. On Sunday afternoon a municipal band recital will be given in the Park commencing at 2.45.

HAWERA & NORMANBY STAR,
MARCH 5, 1923
BRASS BAND COMPETITION

Massed bands Demonstration.

Enthusiasm reached its climax on Saturday when the brass bands competing in the New Plymouth contest drew a huge crowd, estimated at between nine and ten thousand, to Pukekura park to witness the quickstep competition and massed bands demonstration.

The weather conditions were well-nigh perfect. During the morning people poured into New Plymouth; trains and motor cars brought visitors from the country, while town folk were early out of doors in order to secure the most advantageous position at the ground from which to watch the bands perform their marching evolutions.

TH, MARCH 6, 1923
ATHLETICS MEETING
BIG GATHERING AT NEW
PLYMOUTH. - SATURDAY NEXT.

After a lapse of ten or twelve years a monster Caledonian gathering will be held at the Sports Grounds, New Plymouth, on Saturday next, at which the Dominion's leading athletes will be competing. An excellent programme of events, professional and amateur, has been arranged and record entries have been received. The lowest number of competitors in the professional running and cycling events is 20, so that big fields are sure to face the starter, and some excellent performances should be registered. The amateur running events have also filled well and in addition there will be wrestling, throwing the hammer and shot, Highland dancing for adults and children and piping. The committee, of which Mr. J. Austin is honorary secretary, has its arrangements well forward, and expects to see a large crowd. At a meeting of the executive last night, Mr. D. Todd (chieftain) donated a special prize for the best, dressed girl in Highland costume. Mr. D. H. Thomson has also organised a two night's concert (next Monday and Tuesday) in the Empire Theatre. The McKenzie sisters have again signified their willingness to assist with the Highland dancing.

TH, MARCH 7, 1923
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening. Mr. C. E. Bellringer, chairman, presiding.

There were also present: Messrs. W. F. Short, J. McLeod, A. T. Moore, and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

The chairman reported that the park had been put into good order for the band contest week. The caretaker had been doing good work, and under the present arrangement there had been no need to alter the staff. Owing to the wet weather the painting of the Poet's Bridge had been delayed, but the work had, been commenced this week.

Mr. Short reported that he had been unable to procure an extra boat for contest week, but an old one had been put into commission. The secretary stated that the hire of boats had produced £7 7s during the week.

The 4th Battalion Band wrote offering to assist with a concert, if the board would arrange for the vocal programme. The offer was favourably received and the evening of Easter Saturday was tentatively fixed as the date of the concert.

It was reported that shags had been destroying large numbers of carp in the large lake and it was decided to take steps to destroy the birds.

TH, MARCH 12, 1923
ATHLETICS.
NEW PLYMOUTH CALEDONIAN
SOCIETY.
FIRST ANNUAL SPORTS
GATHERING.

The air was filled with sounds of martial Highland music and plaintive pibrochs at Pukekura Park on Saturday afternoon. It was the occasion of the Caledonian Society's annual sports—the first for 12 years—and there was an atmosphere unmistakably Scotch about the oval. There were kilts of every possible tartan, and dancing and piping events kept the spectators interested from the commencement. Features of the gathering were playing of champion pipers and the dancing of champion performers. But for those whose tastes lay in other directions there was a comprehensive programme of running, cycling and field events. Some very good races were run and there was no waiting between the items.

TH, APRIL 16, 1923
SPORTS GROUND.
DRESSING-SHED
ACCOMMODATION.

The opening of the football season has again thrust to the forefront the acute need for adequate dressing-shed accommodation at the Pukekura Sports Ground. In this respect there is probably no other ground in the country that is so well situated naturally and so well laid out, that is so poorly off in regard to accommodation. For those participating in sport played there. The old shed which stands there for use never has been adequate for the needs of the place, and the movement at present in hand for the provision of a proper pavilion for players is long overdue. It is gratifying, however, to know that the committee controlling the grounds has now taken the matter up seriously, and it is to be

hoped their appeal through the medium of an art union will meet with the success it deserves. A well-considered plan has been adopted and the erection of the pavilion will be proceeded with immediately there is an assurance that the necessary funds will be available. It is proposed to erect in front of the present shed an artistic-looking pavilion which is to include dressing-rooms, with bath accommodation, a training-room, and conveniences for players as well as public conveniences and when completed the building should meet the needs of players which as a sportsground the place now lacks. The building will be on a picturesque site in the grounds and will add something to their attractiveness and much to their general utility as a sports centre.

TH, APRIL 20, 1923

DRESSING-SHED FUNDRAISING

It has been generally recognised for some years past that the most serious defect in the Pukekura Park Sports Ground is the want of up-to-date dressing sheds with conveniences. The committee in charge have been fully aware of this defect, but owing to want of funds could not undertake this work until the playing area had been put in order. As this has now been done a movement is on foot to raise funds for dressing sheds and conveniences, and to assist this object four of the local teams namely Tukapa, Star, Old Boys and High School, have kindly consented to play matches on the Sports Ground tomorrow, all the proceeds of which will be put aside for the purpose named. It now only rests with the public to show their appreciation of the effort that is being made by attending the matches tomorrow, and thus assist the committee to raise sufficient funds to warrant a start being made with the improvements at once.

**MAY 1, 1923
TROUT OVA**

The Taranaki Acclimatisation Society has decided to obtain 200,000 brown trout eyed ova from the Hakataramea and 100,000 eyed rainbow ova from Rotorua; they will be reared in the Pukekura Park hatcheries. At a meeting of the council on Monday night a number of applications for the position of caretaker at the hatcheries was received and the appointment was left in the hands of a sub-committee.

TH, MAY 2, 1923

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer chairman, presiding. There were also present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, J. McLeod, and A. T. Moore.

An apology was received from Mr. H. Dempsey, and the secretary, Mr. Stainton.

The chairman read a letter he had received from Mr. C. Weston on the eve of his departure on a trip to England and enclosing a donation of £5 5s towards

the park funds. Mr. Weston thanked the board for granting him leave of absence and expressed the hope that he would find members still taking the same keen interest in the park on his return.

The chairman reported that all work at the park was proceeding very satisfactorily, the grounds being in good order. No new work was being undertaken just now, the staff being kept fully occupied with maintenance.

Reference was also made to the excellent condition of the sports ground, and it was explained that the new mowing machine which had been purchased by the Sports Ground Committee was giving splendid results.

It was reported that the 4th Battalion Band would give a recital at the park on Sunday, and that a collection would be taken up on behalf of the park funds. Other business of a routine nature was transacted and a number of accounts were passed for payment.

TDN, MAY 8, 1923

**NEW PLYMOUTH COUNCIL
COMMITTEES APPOINTED**

Pukekura Park Board: - The Mayor, Crs. Amoore and Mr. A. T. Moore.

TH, MAY 23, 1923

SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Now Plymouth Sportsground Committee was held on Tuesday night. Present: Messrs. A. L. Humphries (chairman), J. Kenny, Jas. McLeod, G. E. Jago, E. Jackson, G. H. Saunders, H. Townley, J. Clarke, J. Garcia, C. Ferry, C. Allen and L. Little.

Preliminary arrangements were made in connection with the seven-a-side tournament, which is to be held at New Plymouth on June 4, for tie Dewar Shield. The conditions will be the same as for last year. Gold medals will be presented to the winners and silver medals to the runners-up. Nominations will close on Thursday, 31.

Final arrangements were made for the drawing of the art union, which will take place on the evening of June 4.

The question of erecting a gymnasium in connection with the proposed dressing-pavilion was brought forward by representatives of the Boxing Association. It was stated that the provisional plan contained a room that could be utilised for the purpose.

TH, MAY 25, 1923

EMPIRE DAY CELEBRATIONS

About, 1200 children and their teachers, representing all the New Plymouth schools, marched to Pukekura Park on Thursday afternoon to take part in the Empire Day celebrations. They were lined up on the north side of the oval, opposite a Union Jack that was flying from the bank. The junior associates of the Victoria League, under Miss Harper, were in the front ranks.

After the singing of the National Anthem Archdeacon Evans addressed the gathering and made the children repeat the following sentences:—"I belong to a great empire called the British Empire.

This empire has been made great by noble men and women through many ages. I have my part to do in keeping this empire greater. By God's help I will do my duty." Archdeacon Evans read the messages from the King and Queen, and expressed the hope that with the help of Mrs. C. H. Burgess souvenir cards with the words inscribed might be prepared for distribution. He called for three cheers for their Majesties, a hearty response being the result.

Two verses of Kipling's Recessional were sung under the baton of Mr. R. H. Deare, and then the children saluted the flag with a precision and unity that did them credit.

Mr. H. Dempsey thanked the teachers, on behalf of Mrs. Burgess, for bringing their pupils. Many had come long distances. At the request of Archdeacon Evans, the children gave three rousing cheers for their teachers.

After this the gathering disbanded, the junior associates of the Victoria League making their way to the lakeside. Here a beautiful wreath of white chrysanthemums, roses, cyclamens, kennedia and maidenhair ferns was placed on the fountain in memory of Queen Victoria.

TH, JUNE 6, 1923

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer presiding. The Borough Council notified that the subsidy of £250 had been renewed this year. Reporting on the work of the month, the chairman said cleaning-up operations had occupied most of the time of the staff, and everything was in order again. Planting had been done systematically throughout the park and little was left in that direction, except a certain amount of thinning-out. The bridge connecting the children's swings had been completed. An offer of an orchestra for a concert at the park was made by Mr. L. Blanchard, the matter being left in the chairman's hands. The band was accorded a vote of thanks for its collection of £7 1s 6d, taken at a recital held in aid of the park funds.

TH, JULY 18, 1923

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. H. Dempsey, J. McLeod, W. F. Short, F. Amoore, A. T. Moore, R. C. Hughes, and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The chairman's annual report was as follows:—I have the honour and pleasure of again presenting a brief resume of the year's operations at the park. In June and July of last year the board decided to assist in providing work for some of those out of employment. The principal work undertaken was the cleaning of the upper lake. This was a much needed job and was well carried out under the supervision of the late Mr. C. Revell. A

sum of some one hundred and fifty pounds, in addition to a subsidy of £100 from the relief fund of the town, was spent upon this and other necessary works.

Fernery: The fernery has been enclosed and a considerable number of ferns have been collected and planted. The dry season at the time of planting caused a slight loss in the ferns planted, but generally it was a success and the foundation has been laid of what, I trust, will in the near future, be one of the finest ferneries in the Dominion.

Rhododendron Dell: The planting of the rhododendrons which had been under the care of Mr. C. Sanders was carried out under his direction, and the trees have made fine growth. I regret that four of the trees were removed from the hillside by some person almost as soon as they had been planted. The trees are looking well and should in a few years make a brave show. I suggest that Mr. Sanders be asked to select a few more plants this season adding varieties not at present in our collection.

Rosery: The newly formed rose bed was filled with rose trees, and a good show of blooms was obtained in the spring. Mr. Dempsey kindly took control of this bed, with very satisfactory results. **Children's Swings:** These were fitted up under the trees nearby the waterfall and proved a source of enjoyment and pleasure to many of the young folk. I consider that at the earliest opportunity we should provide additional means for the children to enjoy themselves in the park. Many other attractions are necessary to the completion of this side of the park. The meagre income we have available prevents us, I know, from doing much we would like to do.

Sports Ground: The Sports Ground Committee has done good work during the year, and purpose making further improvements. The arrangement entered into last year for the upkeep of the grounds has worked satisfactorily; I recommend that it be continued.

Section, Fillis Street: The section known as "Atkinson's," at the north-eastern corner of the park, was purchased from the owner at a reasonable price, completing the park area in that locality.

Boats: The boats have been, patronised and a fair income has been received from this source.

General: The work of cleaning up and repairing paths, etc., has been well attended to by the staff. The park is in good order, and despite the very wet season looks well. I regret that Mr. Revell, who took charge in June 1922, died in December. Mr. Revell had in the short time he was with us proved himself to be an energetic and capable worker. Since his death Mr. G. Tunnecliffe has had control, attending to the duties with great assiduity and interest. The bridge and bathing shed were painted in March last. Thanks: Our thanks are due to Mr. Bates, our honorary architect, for supervising the painting of the bridge; to Mr. John Gibson, for assistance with fernery; to Mr. C. Sanders, for caring for the rhododendrons for a year and advising at the planting of the trees; and

to all good friends who have assisted in many ways.

The financial statement showed an excess of expenditure over income for the year amounting to £425 7s 5d, but it was pointed out that there had been several items of what might be termed extraordinary expenditure which accounted for a large proportion of the sum.

In moving the adoption of the balance-sheet, the chairman said the ordinary income of the board was in the vicinity of £500, while the expenditure amounted to about £600. It would be remembered that some two or three years ago Mrs. Burgess organised a most successful function with the object of raising funds for the park. The proceeds of this function had enabled the board to carry on up to the present without any further special appeal. There was now a balance of £130, approximately, in hand, so that with the ordinary income they had sufficient funds in sight for the time being. It would be necessary, however, to organise a fete of some kind during the coming summer, and he was confident that in this connection they would have the whole-hearted support of the Sports Ground Committee.

Mr. Dempsey seconded the motion, and the report and statement of accounts was adopted.

GENERAL.

Messrs. Dempsey, Amooore and Moore were appointed the board's representatives on the Sports Ground Committee.

Messrs. Dempsey, Short and Moore were appointed a sub-committee to deal with the question of boats.

Mr. Amooore was welcomed to the board as one of the Borough Council's representatives.

Votes of thanks were accorded the retiring chairman, the secretary (Mr. P. E. Stainton). Mr. T. H. Bates (honorary architect), Mr. C. Sanders for services in connection with the rhododendron dell, Mr. J. Gibson for his services in connection with the fernery, Mr. Dempsey for work in connection with the rose garden, and to Mr. W. C. Weston for allowing the use of his room for holding meetings.

It was decided to hold regular meetings on the third Tuesday in each month.

It was mentioned that a commencement would shortly be made with the erection of new dressing sheds, etc., at the sports ground.

Complaints were received as to the annoyance caused to spectators at the football match on Saturday last by smoke from rubbish fires. Any recurrence of the trouble will be avoided as far as possible.

TH, AUGUST 29, 1923

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey (chairman) presiding. There were also present Messrs. R. C. Hughes, F. E. Wilson, W. F. Short, J. McLeod, C. E. Bellringer and A. T. Moore:

Apologies were received from Messrs. F. Amooore and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

The chairman reported that during the month weeds had been cleared from the small upper lake, and the small island near the head of the stream had been cleared. In addition, clearing and burning had been carried out above the southern terrace, while the hill above the dressing shed had been cleaned. The rose and rhododendron beds had been cleared and manured. A number of ferns had been donated and planted by Miss Wade, while the roses had been pruned, chiefly by Messrs. F. Morshead and Stephens.

Votes of thanks were accorded donors and special reference was made to the kindness of Messrs. Morshead and Stephens, members stating that the roses had been particularly well pruned.

The chairman's action in authorising the painting of the boats was confirmed.

Mr. Huggett applied for permission to cut down a tree and do some cleaning in the park near his residence. The matter was referred to the chairman and Mr. Bellringer.

Mrs. Frethey asked that a tree overshadowing her garden in John Street be cut down, but the request was declined owing to the impossibility of cutting down the tree without destroying the undergrowth.

It was decided to renew the Park Tennis Club's lease of their courts at £7 10s for the current year, the rental to come for review at the end of that period. Consent was given to provide asphalt courts.

TH, OCTOBER 2, 1923

SPORTS GROUND MEETING

A meeting of the Sports Ground Committee was held on Monday evening, Mr. A. L. Humphries, chairman, presiding. There were also present: Messrs J. McLeod, J. Garcia, J. Clarke, F. C. Ferry, G. E. Jago, A. T. Moore, and L. Little, hon. secretary.

Apologies were received from Messrs. G. H. Saunders, F. Amooore and F. J. Hill.

The chairman extended a welcome to Mr. Moore, who was recently appointed as one of the representatives of the Pukekura Park Board on the committee.

Mr. C. W. Brewster, hon. secretary of the New Plymouth League Cycle Club, wrote asking for a refund of a proportion of fees paid by cyclists for training rights on the sports ground. He pointed out that cyclists had paid 5s for 12 months' training rights, whereas the grounds had since been closed for such purposes. Failing a refund they asked that the time allowed for training be extended to the full 12 months.

It was pointed out that the licenses were not issued for 12 months, but for the season, and it was therefore resolved that no refund could be given.

Plans were submitted by Mr. T. H. Bates, architect, for dressing-rooms, etc., it is proposed to erect in the park. These were approved subject to minor alterations, and arrangements will be made for a conference on the ground between the committee and the Park Board.

A sub-committee consisting of the chairman and secretary and Messrs. McLeod and Ferry was appointed to confer with the architect and with power to call for tenders for the building.

The chairman reported that the committee had a credit balance of £480.

TH, OCTOBER 5, 1923
PARK TENNIS CLUB
TO HAVE ASPHALT COURTS

At the end of the last playing season of the Park Tennis Club it was proposed to lay down the courts in asphalt for the forthcoming season. A start was to have been made some weeks ago, but owing to financial circumstances, the work could not be commenced. Negotiations have now been completed and the work is to commence immediately. The actual laying of the courts should not take long, but it will be some weeks before play can commence. If the work is started next week, the courts should be ready for playing by November 1, providing the weather holds good.

TH, OCTOBER 5, 1923
SPORTS GROUND PAVILION GIVEN
GO-AHEAD

A conference was held on Thursday afternoon between representatives of the Pukekura Park Board and the Sports Ground Committee with reference to the proposed pavilion, dressing rooms, etc. Plans submitted by the Sports Ground Committee were approved and the site of the building agreed upon.

TH, OCTOBER 17, 1923
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. H. Dempsey (in the chair), F. E. Wilson, C. E. Bellringer, R. C. Hughes, F. Amooore, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (secretary).

An apology was received from Mr. W. C. Weston.

The chairman reported that during the month considerable cleaning up had been done at the park, fences where necessary had been repaired, and a culvert had been renewed. A clay wicket had been laid for cricketers for practice, and a fence was being fixed around parts of the sports ground so that sheep could be grazed on the playing area when the ground was not in use.

Reference was made to the very pretty sight the flowering cherries had made during the last few weeks, and to the splendid growth of other flowering shrubs in the park. It was mentioned that in former years donations of annuals had been received for the park, and the hope was expressed that similar gifts would be forthcoming this year as there were several places where they could be planted with advantage.

The chairman reported that members of the board had conferred with the Sports Ground committee with reference to the proposed pavilion, and that the plans had been approved and site of the building agreed upon.

The secretary urged the necessity for inaugurating some scheme for raising funds on behalf of the park, otherwise they would have to encroach on their small reserve fund for ordinary maintenance, which would not be good business.

Mr. Bellringer said the Sports Ground Committee had kindly promised their assistance in arranging a day's entertainment on behalf of the park.

It was explained that the band had also promised to provide a concert on behalf of the board's funds.

The chairman said that some years ago quite a number of townspeople were generous enough to make annual donations to the funds. He would very much like to see these subscriptions renewed. If the park was to be properly maintained then ways and means would have to be found to provide the necessary revenue to meet the cost.

The Mayor asked what the position was in regard to the sports ground. What revenue did the board derive from this source?

It was explained that the Sports Ground Committee had been allowed to take over the management of this particular part of the park, the understanding being that all revenue derived from the grounds should be spent on further improvements. The playing area for instance had been re-laid at considerable expense, the terraces were to be improved, and a pavilion was about to be erected.

The Mayor said he felt in view of the urgent need for funds a proportion of the revenue should be handed to the board for expenditure on the rest of the park.

Mr. Bellringer said the members of the Sports Committee had devote a great deal of time to the grounds and had raised a great deal of money which had undoubtedly been spent for the benefit of the people. The committee still had large works in view. The board had felt that the younger men of the town would do better with the ground than the board, hence the agreement that had been arrived at.

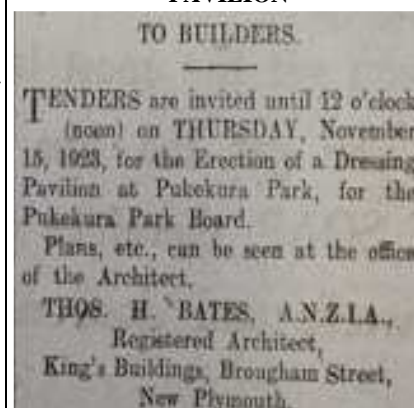
The Mayor said no one was more keenly alive to the splendid work that had been and was being done by the Sports Ground Committee, and he did not want anyone to think he was against the committee. The sports ground was the main source of revenue for the park and he felt that some proportion of the revenue should be available to the board. Mr. Wilson added that the time was coming when the board would have to seriously consider the use that was being made of the ground during the winter because other bodies besides the Rugby Union had a claim.

Mr. Bellringer said they had to consider the fact that Rugby was the most popular sport with the people, and that provided the bulk of the revenue for the ground.

Mr. Hughes, said he had an assurance from Mr. McLeod that as soon as the committee's plans had been carried out the grounds would be handed back to the board, and that it would then be a magnificent source of revenue.

The chairman was authorised to give effect to the wishes of Mr. C. H. Burgess that the califont (water heater) donated by him to the park be disposed of if it was of no further use to the board.

TH, NOVEMBER 3, 1923
TENDER FOR SPORTS GROUND
PAVILION



TH, NOVEMBER 21, 1923
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present Messrs. H. Dempsey in the chair, F. E. Wilson (Mayor), C. E. Bellringer, W. C. Weston, F. Amooore, R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, J. McLeod, A. T. Moore and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

The chairman welcomed Mr. Weston on his return from abroad and expressed the hope that he had had an enjoyable holiday.

The chairman reported that during the month a donation of seeds had been received from the Forestry Department. Regarding the work of the month, considerable cleaning up had been done, the staff having been kept fairly busy in this respect. One of the features of the park at the present time was the rose bed, which was looking remarkably well, the wealth of bloom being greatly admired by visitors.

Mr. H. R. Cattley, secretary of the Regimental Band, wrote enclosing a cheque for £12, being proceeds of collection from band recital at the park. The Band Committee was sorry to see such small interest taken this last two years by the Park Board when the Borough Council and the band gave their permission to take up a collection for the park funds. The council and the writer had notified the board of the recital.

The secretary pointed out that in July the band's programme for the season was forwarded to the board, but that the dates were looked upon as being merely tentative. When he received further notice a day or two before the recital he did all he possibly could to facilitate any necessary arrangements, and securing collectors. He did not think the board had shown any lack of interest.

Other members of the board expressed their regret at the tone of the letter and it was also pointed out that the board had always been willing to meet the band in every possible way and had in fact gone out of its way to help them.

A letter will be forwarded to the band expressing thanks for the donation and trusting that the band and the board would continue to co-operate in the future as in the past.

Mr. McLeod mentioned that the Sports Ground Committee was arranging a concert for an early date at the park and on behalf of the park, subject to the board's approval, the desire of the committee was that the proceeds should be devoted to the fernery.

Mr. Bellringer said it was decided some time ago to establish a fernery in the park and quite a lot of preliminary work was done, but for various reasons little attention had been paid to the fernery latterly. It was desirable that an effort should be made to proceed with the establishment of the fernery this coming season. One of the first requisites was a bush-house which would provide necessary shelter and then arrangements must be made for the collection of ferns. He had personally received quite a number of promises of assistance from people who were keenly interested in the collection of ferns. He moved that a committee consisting of Messrs. Besley, McLeod and the mover be appointed to take charge of this particular work and that permission be given to the Sports Ground Committee to hold a concert in the park, the proceeds to be devoted to the fernery. There was no reason why in the course of a few years they should not have at the park a fernery second to none in the Dominion. In Taranaki alone there was a very wide range of ferns and, as he had already intimated, he had received numerous offers of assistance from people in different parts of the district who were interested in the collection of ferns.

The motion was seconded by the chairman and carried.

Mr. McLeod also mentioned that at the next meeting of the Sports Ground Committee tenders for the erection of the new pavilion at the sports ground would be dealt with, and that he expected the work would be proceeded with immediately.

In reply to a question Mr. McLeod said the committee had in hand towards the cost of the pavilion £430.

It was decided that Messrs. Dempsey, Wilson, Bellringer and Weston be a deputation to wait on the Sports Ground Committee and solicit its co-operation in arranging a function some time in February with the object of raising funds for the park.

Owing to the fact that the December meeting would fall close to the holidays it was decided that it be allowed to lapse and Messrs. Dempsey, Bellringer, Wilson and the secretary were appointed a committee with authority to deal with any urgent business that might arise.

It was decided to grant the usual vote to the members of the staff at Christmas time.

EXTRA NOTES FROM TDN REPORTS

Seeds of Burma bamboo had been received from the Conservator of Forests, Rotorua, and planted at the park.

TH, NOVEMBER 22, 1923 SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE - AGM

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Sports Ground Committee was held on Wednesday evening. There were present: Messrs. A. L. Humphries (chairman), L. B. Webster, G. E. Jago, H. Dempsey, F. Amooore, A. L. Roberts, J. Kenny, J. Clarke, H. Townsley, F. J. Hill, G. H. Saunders, J. McLeod, F. C. Ferry, J. Garcia, and L. Little (secretary).

In moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet (already published), the chairman said he had great pleasure in congratulating the committee upon the very splendid position which existed. In the whole history of the ground, or at least during the time he had been associated with it, which was about eighteen years, he could not recollect such a satisfactory balance-sheet having been presented. It was not that they had such a great amount of money, but they had at last got the ground in really good order. The committee should now, he considered, concentrate upon building the dressing-shed and when that was done they could then again devote their attention to further improving the ground. A tender would come up for consideration that night for erecting the pavilion and he was pleased to note the price was satisfactory. If accepted, they would have to borrow about £300 and the building would be ready early in the New Year. Mr. Humphries thanked members for the whole-hearted support he had received from them throughout the year, which had entailed a good deal of hard work on the part of Individual members. He was also grateful for the manner in which the committee had always backed him in anything that he had to do upon his own initiative.

Mr. F. J. Hill seconded, remarking that the position was very satisfactory.

The motion was, carried without discussion.

It was proposed by Mr. J. Kenny that Mr. A. L. Humphries be re-elected chairman. Mr. Humphries considered that office should pass round each year.

Messrs. Dempsey, Webster and McLeod each made eulogistic reference to the work of Mr. Humphries and hoped that he would accept nomination. Reference was also made by members to the valuable work of the secretary (Mr. L. Little).

In consenting to nomination, Mr. Humphries said that he took a great interest in the ground and when the proposals the committee had in mind were carried out there would not be another ground in the Southern Hemisphere to touch it.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Other officers were elected as follows: Hon. secretary, Mr. L. Little (re-elected); hon. auditor, Mr. N. B. Bellringer (re-elected); executive committee, the chairman and secretary, and Messrs. J. McLeod and F. C. Ferry.

On the motion of Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Dempsey, a general resolution was carried expressing thanks to all those who had helped the committee. A vote of thanks was also passed to

Messrs. Collett and Co. for the free use of their board room for meetings.

Votes of thanks were carried to the chairman and secretary for their unflinching service during the year.

Messrs. Jones and Sandford's tender of £640 was accepted for the erection of pavilion and dressing-shed on the ground.

The offer of the Taranaki Cricket Association to pay £15 for the use of the ground for the season was accepted, the committee to cut and roll the out-field when necessary, and the association to keep the match wickets in order.

Mr. Ferry was appointed the committee's representative to supervise all cricket arrangements.

It was also decided to ask cricketers to wear rubber shoes when possible.

In regard to gate moneys, it was decided to notify the association that no levy would be made on club matches, but the committee would charge a percentage upon all representative fixtures.

TH, NOVEMBER 22, 1923

FUNDRAISING FUNDS LOW.

UPKEEP OF PUKEKURA PARK. BIG CARNIVAL PROPOSED.

Funds at the disposal of the Pukekura Park Board are running low and at the annual meeting of the Sports Ground Committee on Wednesday night, Messrs. C. E. Bellringer and W. C. Weston (members of the board) waited upon the committee with a view to securing its co-operation in organising an effort to raise money for next year's maintenance and improvement work. Assistance was promised readily and a sub-committee set up to meet the board's committee with a recommendation that a carnival queen and floral carnival be held at the end of February or early in March.

In placing the position before the committee, Mr. Bellringer said it was some three years since any effort had been made on behalf of the park. About £1200 had been raised through Mrs. Burgess and most of this amount had been spent in special objects. Funds were now depleted and the board required £250 a year in addition to the borough subsidy and the amounts derived from rents and endowments. The board proposed to make an effort on its own behalf and it was felt that the Sports Ground Committee would readily assist. About £600 was required annually in order to maintain the park, and to secure this amount it was necessary to appeal to the public. Sometime in February Mr. Bellringer considered the most suitable date, and he suggested that if the committee was willing to assist a sub-committee should be appointed to meet the board's representatives with the object of adopting some scheme for an effort to raise sufficient money for upkeep during the forthcoming year.

Mr. Weston endorsed the previous speaker's remarks, suggesting that a garden party in the park would be an inexpensive way of raising money.

Mr. H. Dempsey supported the proposal. Speaking as member of the Park Board, he said that there was barely sufficient funds to carry over another year, yet the board did not want to go round with the hat, but wished to give some return for the money raised.

The chairman (Mr. A. L. Humphries) was fully in sympathy with the board's position. It was doing work of which the whole district should be proud, and he felt sure the committee would give every assistance. He was convinced that a profitable effort could be made in February. They possessed the talent and with good organisation a big sum of money could be raised.

A garden fete in conjunction with a carnival queen was suggested by Mr. G. E. Jago. It had been rather over-done in some centres, but not in New Plymouth, he said. Patea during the slump had raised £1200 in that way, so that New Plymouth should be able to raise £3000 and at the least £2000.

The matter was enthusiastically discussed by members, and on the motion of Mr. Roberts the committee decided to pledge its assistance to the Park Board in raising the money required.

A suggestion from Mr. L. B. Webster that a floral carnival, being more attractive at that time of the year, should be considered was adopted and a recommendation was made to that effect to the committee, consisting of Messrs. Humphries, Little, Webster, Jago and Saunders, set up to meet the board's representatives to arrange dates and the class of entertainment.

TH, DECEMBER 21, 1923
QUEEN CARNIVAL.

PUKEKURA PARK IMPROVEMENTS.
£3000 AIMED AT.

SIX CANDIDATES TO TAKE PART.

Three thousand pounds is wanted to carry out permanent improvements at Pukekura park, and the method of obtaining it is to be by way of a floral fete and queen carnival to be held during show week in March next. The scheme found enthusiastic and unanimous support at a public meeting in the Soldiers' Club on Thursday evening, when it was decided to have six candidates not more than 14 years of age, representing respectively Fitzroy, Vogelstown, Westown, Moturoa, New Plymouth East and New Plymouth West. Organisers were appointed for each district, their duties being to call meetings and form committees to work in the interests of the rival queens.

Mr. F. J. Hill has consented to act as honorary secretary and treasurer, and a very attractive programme for the final functions has been drafted.

Members of the Park Board and Sports Ground Committee and representatives of the various sports bodies and business organisations attended last night's meeting and promises of support were received from several who were unable to be present. Mr. A. L. Humphries, chairman of the Sports Ground Committee, presided.

They all knew that the funds in hand were not sufficient to carry on the work at Pukekura Park, he explained. The Park Board had approached the Sports Ground Committee for assistance in raising money, and it had been decided to hold a floral fete and queen carnival. The meeting had been called to consider this scheme and form committees for the various districts.

Mr. H. Dempsey, chairman of the Park Board, explained that they now depended almost entirely on voluntary contributions; a little came from the Borough Council, but not enough. About three years ago Mrs. C. H. Bures had succeeded in raising something like £1200 for the park, and that had kept the board going until now, but this sum was gradually dwindling. When thanking the Sports Ground Committee for the ready manner in which it had come forward to assist, he urged the whole town and suburbs to see that a success was made of the scheme. The park belonged to the town and they were proud of it.

The financial responsibilities of the board were explained by Mr. C. E. Bellringer, chairman for many years. The board had to have revenue from outside sources in order to carry on, he said. The Borough Council gave £250 a year, obtained from the lease of the racecourse and, in addition, small endowments brought in about £60 annually; a little revenue was obtained from the hire of the boats on the lake. The expenditure was about £600 a year, leaving a deficiency of about £250.

IMPROVEMENTS IN VIEW.

"We want a definite forestry scheme in the park," continued Mr. Bellringer, when stating that with so many young trees growing up board members had for some time felt that it was necessary to employ a man with expert knowledge of this branch of horticulture. Then the board had recently acquired additional land, and there was a suggestion to make children's playground. Money was needed for the fernery, which should in time become one of the big attractions, and attention would have to be paid to the old swamp originally intended as a site for a swimming pool for the Central School; it was at present a wilderness but the late Mr. Percy Smith had had a scheme to beautify it.

Referring to the money raised by Mrs. Burgess, Mr. Bellringer said that about £700 of this went in special expenditure, including money spent on the tea house. When the Sports Ground Committee was formed the board gave it to understand that it would not trench on its revenue, but it was understood that the committee would come to the board's assistance when necessary. With the growth of New Plymouth the park would become increasingly important. He mentioned that Mr. Newton King had given a bed of irises to the park, and there had been other contributions, including an endowment of £100. Doubtless in time the Borough Council would have to form a park department, but at present the board had to rely on voluntary contributions.

AIM £3000.

"Our aim is £3000," said Mr. Humphries. "It might sound a lot of money, but I am convinced it can be raised if the whole town takes the matter up." He contended that if a little place like Patea could raise £1200 New Plymouth should be able to reach £3000.

With reference to the divisions of town and suburbs mentioned above, he said that the idea was that each district should set up committees and nominate queen candidates and then get to work to raise funds in the various interests. This would go on till show week in March. On the previous Saturday it was intended to hold a seven-a-side football tournament. Functions would be held on the nights of the following Wednesday (March 5), Thursday, and Friday, and the big affair would be held on Saturday March 8. In the afternoon all the queen candidates and their retinue would march round the park oval, and prizes of £10, £6, £4, £3, £2 and £1 would be offered for attractiveness of dressing and display. The judging would be done by the public to whom voting cards would be distributed as they entered the gates. These would be collected and counted and the results announced at another gathering in the park in the evening.

Mr. Humphries then detailed the programme proposed for the afternoon. The competitions which had been decided on were for the best floral decorated boys and girls and for best decorated tricycles, push chairs, go-carts, Perambulators, bicycles, pets drawing vehicles, Shetland ponies, motor-cars, and motor-cycles, while there would be also a school competition for the best impersonation of the "wayback" family. In addition, the schools would be invited to enter teams representing any one colour in floral decoration, the idea being that by massed movements a decorative scheme could be worked out on the ground. In closing Mr. Humphries asked that the committees be called together immediately after the holidays.

Mr. Dempsey moved, and Mr. Brookman seconded: "That this meeting of citizens of New Plymouth and suburbs approves of the proposal to run a queen carnival and floral fete in aid of Pukekura Park and pledges itself to assist in every possible way." This was eventually carried unanimously.

TDN, DECEMBER 21, 1923

THE SPORTSGROUND COMMITTEE
AND BOARD

RELATIONSHIP DEFINED
WORKING FOR ONE OBJECT

The relationship of the Sportsground Committee to the Pukekura Park Board was explained last night during the discussion on the launching of the queen carnival campaign for funds to assist the Park Board. It was made clear that the two bodies were part of each other, and that both worked for the common object of improving the park. The discussion arose from a question as to what proportion the committee was to receive of any money that might be raised.

"There is no difference between the Pukekura Park Board and the Sportsground Committee," said Mr. J. McLeod (A member of the board). "The committee is part of the board and subsidiary to it, and both work for the one object. The board is the controlling authority." He added that the committee had been given a lease of the ground for a certain number of years, for which it paid the board a peppercorn rental of £75 per annum the board in return employing a man on the ground three days a week. The committee's aim was to improve the ground. When the time came to hand it back to the board and for the committee to dissolve, the board would have an asset which should return an annual revenue of between £500 and £1000. Nobody was making any money out of the ground.

Mr. C. E. Bellringer (ex-chairman of the board and now a member) said that he had moved the resolution which had brought the Sportsground Committee into being. The position was that, after the war, the board had been faced with the necessity of doing something to improve the ground, which was then in a bad state. The board had no money with which to do the work, and it had hit on the idea of inviting the co-operation of the various sports bodies. A committee had been appointed, and to them the board had handed over control of the ground for a period of years. The board had three representatives on the committee, which was subordinate to the board and had to report to it on many things.

Mr. Bellringer referred to the great improvement the committee had made to the ground, and said that if the committee was in need of funds it was the board's duty to extend help. As a matter of fact, the board was assisting the committee at the present time to erect a pavilion, but the money advanced would be returned. Just now, the board wanted money with which to carry on its work and the committee was coming to its assistance.

Mr. W. C. Weston (a member of the board) suggested that since the question had been raised it would be as well to announce the understanding which had been come to concerning the allocation of any money which might be realised by the carnival. He spoke highly of the work of the committee, asking what would the ground be like at the present time had it not been for the energy and enthusiasm of the committee.

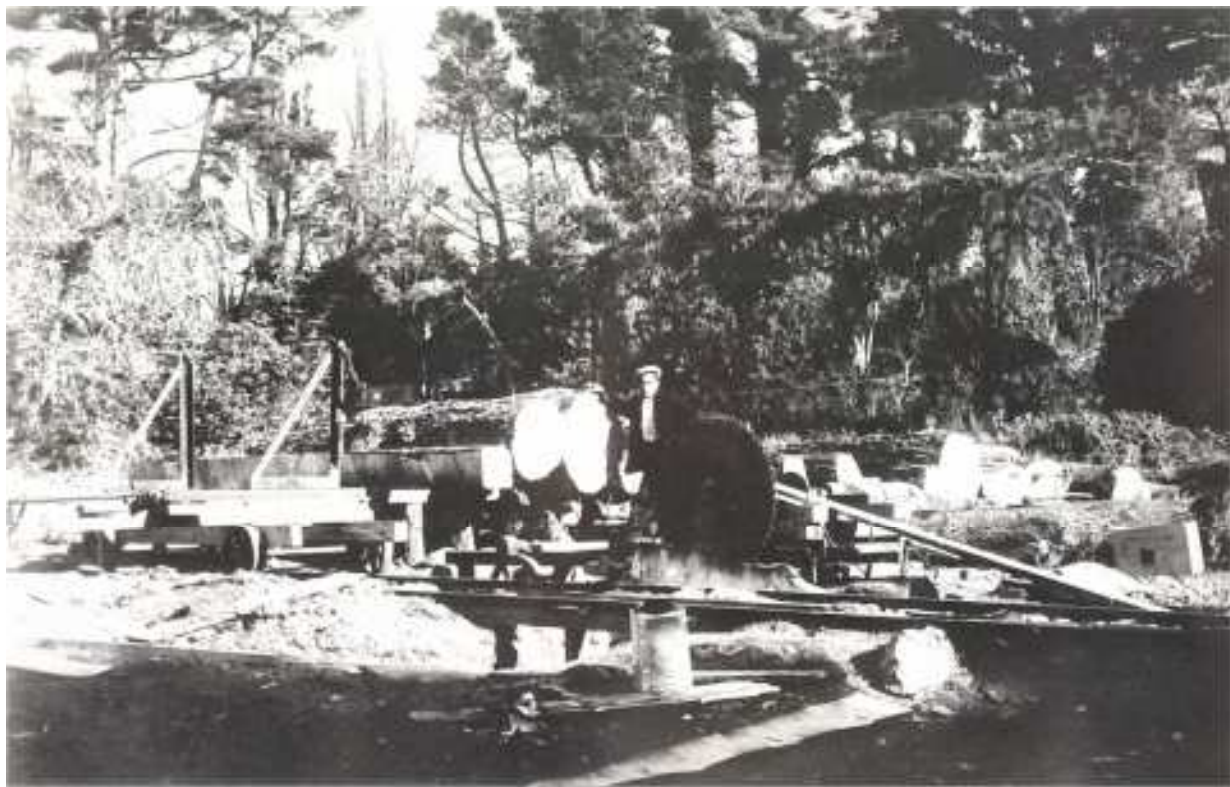
Mr. A. Humphries (chairman of the committee) said that it had been agreed that any sum raised up to £500 would be handed to the board, while any money in excess of that sum would be halved if the committee desired it. There was no hard and fast rule. The committee might not want half, and if it did not the board would have the funds. In any case all the money would be spent on the park; the sportsground was part of the park and under the jurisdiction of the board. The Committee was out simply to improve it.

Mr. G. E. Jago said that the public should be told that during the past two or three years the committee had spent over £800

on the ground, which was now one of the attractions of New Plymouth.

TH, DECEMBER 22, 1923
THE SPORTS GROUND.
WHAT HAS BEEN SPENT ON IT.

In the three years since it was constituted the Pukekura Park Sports Ground Committee has expended £1100 on the ground and wiped off debts totalling £200, which were a legacy from the former committee that made the ground and then became defunct during the war period. Inquiring the position, a Taranaki Herald representative was informed that this expenditure does not include any of the administration expenses, but is the amount actually spent on improving the ground. The committee has in hand a sum of £400 to help meet the cost (approximately £700) of a pavilion, the erection of which is to be commenced early in 1924. In its powers the Sports Ground Committee is subsidiary to the Pukekura Park Board, though it is due to the committee's energy that the ground has been put into its excellent condition. The sports ground with its terraces on three sides, giving an excellent view to many thousands of spectators, is a thing which, in its way, should arouse in New Plymouth people the pride of possession just as much as Pukekura Park itself does.



Log milling site - Pukekura Park (Puke Ariki A.4.20)

1924

The Sports Ground changing rooms were constructed at the beginning of the year.

A major fundraiser was a successful Queen Carnival which netted the board over £1400. Unfortunately, the carnival was marred by the unfortunate death of the nominated queen, Miss Maisie Whittle, who died a few days after the Park procession having contracted influenza during the competition.

Mr. Tunnecliffe resigned his position as curator due to ill health, having served approximately one year. Advertisements were placed for a replacement and the Board was fortunate to receive an application from Thomas Horton, who started his tenure in July of 1924.

A new tram line to the Park's gates was laid which opened in July of 1924. The line ran up Liardet Street from Devon Street where it branched off the main line. It terminated at the main gates on Fillis Street and branched off to the Gilbert Street entrance. This was made possible because a lot of the materials were left over from the construction of the Westtown extension. It was also stated that the branch onto Gilbert Street could be extended to Vogeltown via Carrington Road. This extension never materialised, probably because of technical difficulties with the proposed route.

It was reported that a large poplar tree had fallen over and badly damaged the boat shed. Early in the parks history poplar trees were planted to identify the Park's boundaries. On the hill just east of the boat shed is the southern boundary of section 1262, which in 1876 was a park boundary. There is still a poplar tree on that border today.

The first plan for a major fernery was put to the Board by Mr. Besely. It was to have three chambers, one 30ft by 50ft and the other two, 60ft by 30ft the wall was to be terraced, all covered with a glass roof. The plan had been drawn up by Mrs H. Lovell, of Hawera. The proposal was given the go-ahead and work started on clearing the hillside to the south of the John Street walk.

As part of the preparation for the fernery the board had decided to clear a number of large pine trees on the north side of the John Street walk which it was thought may cause issues in future years. This clearing of pines led to Horton's first major planting of native trees. The trees in question are the rimu, totara and kauri which flank what is now, Horton Walk, leading from the Rogan Street entrance, down to the Tea House. He planted about 300 trees in this area, which were purchased from Duncan and Davies. His diary entry, September 25, reads, "Kauri, Rimu & other trees arrived. Planted John St walk. Mr Morshead presented Tanekaha (*Phyllocladus alpinus*)". We know from Thomas Horton's diary that tree felling started on September 3, and the job was finished by November 4. Also noted in his diary were the trees that were felled. His entry on October 28, read, "Total number of trees felled to date, 35 Pine (large), 3 Pine (smaller), 18 Oak and Sycamore." The board authorised the felling of large Pine trees that were dangerous to leave. The logs suitable for milling were purchased by the Sash and Door Factory and Timber Company, what was left was cut up and sold as firewood.

The first Taranaki Kennel Club dog show was held in the park and proved very successful. The champion ribbon for the best dog on the parade was won by Mr. J. Somerton's smooth-haired fox terrier (Maidstone Donholm) (TDN Oct 6).

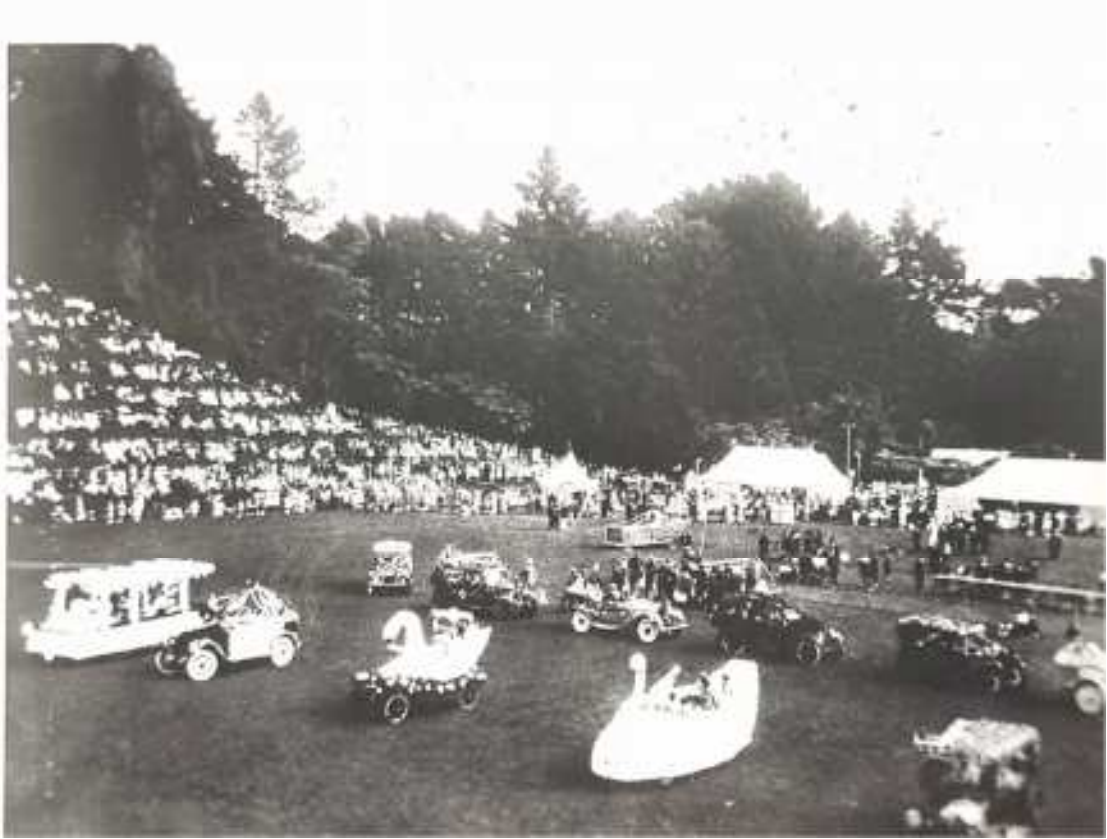
An interesting article was published in the Daily News March 25, indicating that some of the timber for the original St Mary's Church came from Pukekura Park. "Great care was taken in the selection and seasoning of the timber, a great deal of which was obtained from the gullies where Pukekura Park now is. The timber was all hand sawn and then dragged down to the Huatoki River, where it was chained down under the surface of the water for seasoning."

Plant Donations Included:

C. S. Sanders, rhododendrons; Duncan & Davies, trees; John Wheeler, elm tree; Mr. F. Morshead, Tanakaha; Mr. Bridgeman, parcel of kahikatea; Mrs. Wheeler, two loquats.



Pine trees on the John St walk, that were felled in late 1924.
Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 3-Album-48-7



Queen Carnival Parade, Pukekura Park (Puke Ariki A.4.12)



Queen Carnival -The Floral Girls – Auckland Weekly News, March 20, 1924

TH, JANUARY 11, 1924

QUEEN CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Central Committee of the Pukekura Park Queen Carnival Contest and Floral Fete was held on Thursday evening, Mr. A. L. Humphries presiding. There were also present Messrs. S. G. Smith, M.P., C. E. Bellringer, W. C. Weston, A. Roberts, G. Jago, H. Edgecombe, J. Clarke, H. Townsley, J. Kenny, W. W. Thomson, A. T. Moore, G. Saunders, G. M. Spence, L. B. Webster, J. McLeod and F. J. Hill (secretary).

A letter was received from Mr. H. S. Alpe, who to-day is endeavouring to lower the world's walking record of 5hr.19min.29sec. for 35 miles by walking from Uruti to New Plymouth in five hours, offering his assistance to the carnival. It was decided to write thanking Mr. Alpe for his offer and stating that committee would be glad of his assistance when the scheme was properly in motion.

Consideration of a letter from the proprietor of a merry-go-round desirous of having his show at the carnival was deferred.

It was decided to send a circular letter to all residents who had been nominated as members of the general committees of the various districts asking for their consent and appealing for their hearty co-operation, thus ensuring the success of the carnival.

Reports were received from the district meetings in regard to the age of queen candidates, the general opinion being that the question should be left quite open to the districts themselves. Under the circumstances the meeting resolved that there be no age limit.

In order to make the districts more distinctive it was decided that the district agreed upon as East End should be known as City East, and the district agreed upon as West End, City West.

The colours of City East district will be old gold in place of yellow.

It was decided to ask Mr. R. O. Ellis to act on the executive.

A sub-committee consisting of the chairman, Messrs. McLeod, Saunders, Webster, Spence, Roberts and the secretary was appointed to draw up various details in connection with the sales of tickets.

Mr. Spence suggested that a barometer be introduced giving the positions of the candidates from day to day. The suggestion was considered an excellent one and it was decided to introduce it, also a system of flags which will be hoisted in some prominent position in town. The sub-committee appointed to deal with the issue of tickets will arrange the details.

The chairman and Messrs. Spence and Saunders were appointed a sub-committee to arrange advertising.

The chairman and Messrs. Bellringer and Hill were appointed a committee to deal with applications for use of the Sports Ground, and Messrs. Smith, Hill, Amooore and Griffiths were appointed a

committee to arrange for the lighting of the grounds.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on Thursday evening next.

Nominations for queen candidates will close on Saturday, the 19th inst., with the secretary, Mr. F. J. Hill.

TH, JANUARY 16, 1924

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present Messrs.

C. E. Bellringer, W. C. Weston, R. C. Hughes, F. Amooore, W. F. Short, J. McLeod, A. T. Moore, and P. E. Stainton (secretary). In the absence of the chairman, Mr. H. Dempsey, who is away on holiday, Mr. Bellringer presided.

The chairman reported on the general condition of the park, explaining that everything was in very good order. The grass had been sown on the Sports Ground, which was in excellent condition. The contractors, Mr. Bellringer continued, had commenced the erection of the new pavilion at the Sports Ground. The concert arranged by the Sports Ground Committee in aid of the fernery had proved very successful, about £30 being realised.

Mr. Stainton referred to the general expressions of approval by members of the Canterbury cricket eleven of the excellent playing area at the Sports Ground. The wicket particularly, bearing in mind the fact that it was new, was very good indeed and had stood the severe test to which it had been subjected very satisfactorily, while the outfield was especially good. Mr. Stainton said he mentioned these matters because it was evidence on the part of visitors of the splendid work that had undoubtedly been accomplished by the Sports Ground Committee.

In reply to Mr. Weston, the secretary said the revenue from the boats was keeping up particularly well and there was every indication that it would constitute a record.

Permission was granted to the Technical College boys to practice swimming in the lake during the luncheon hour (1 pm. to 2 pm.) under proper supervision.

The members of the Y.W.C.A. Girls' Club having expressed the desire to learn how to row, the matron (Miss B. Roughton) asked whether permission would be granted to allow lessons to be given on the park lake. The board expressed its sympathy with the proposal, and permission to use the boats before 10 a.m. and after 5 pm. was granted. The Y.W.C.A. will have to provide their own coach.

TDN, JANUARY 19, 1924

**AROUND THE PARKS
PUKEKURA PARK (EXTRACT)**

At present Pukekura Park is looking splendid. The grass is mown, paths are cleaned, hedges cut, and the whole effect is neat and tidy. "The sportsground today, it may safely be said, is in better condition than ever before," said Mr. A.

L. Humphries to a Daily News reporter yesterday. "There is a good coat of grass which keeps on improving. The ground is holding its levels, and without an exceptionally wet winter, the elaborate top-dressing which was carried out last year should not be necessary this year."

Work has commenced on the new concrete dressing shed, which will accommodate two football teams, each team to have a separate room, and there will be a room for officials in the centre. Hot and cold water showers be provided immediately behind each dressing room, and there will be lockers in the rooms. The total cost on completion should be in the neighbourhood of £800.

Definite proposals have been put forward for laying out a fernery at Pukekura Park, and the work will be commenced shortly. Preparations will be made for an area of about an acre, but a smaller plot will be commenced with, which will be added to until the full scheme is completed. The idea is to establish a national collection, all ferns of New Zealand to be included under conditions specially adapted for their cultivation. Botanists coming to Taranaki are specially impressed with the ferns on Mount Egmont and in the district, but at present they have to go to the Kaitaki Ranges, Egmont, Mount Messenger and Urenui to make a comprehensive survey of the flora. The position of the fernery will be past the iris bed on the track from the back of the kiosk leading to the racecourse. Some ferns are already planted, but excavations for ferns in tunnels, and other preparations will have to be made.

In addition, it has been proposed that at some future date rockeries with adaptable plants should be placed in suitable situations. The board has in mind the erection of a new concrete kiosk, possibly in the triangle between the present kiosk and the boatshed. The new building will be situated on high ground overlooking the lake. The erection of a number of swings, and the provision of a proper playing ground for children, has been discussed, the suggested site being the upper part of the grounds near Brooklands Road.

TH, JANUARY 22, 1924

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

An open-air concert will be held in Pukekura Park on Wednesday, commencing at 7.45 p.m. Mr. Ferry, who has organised the concert, has succeeded in securing some very fine items. Included in the programme are solos by Miss Marryatt, a brilliant pianist from Invercargill, and songs by Mr. O'Neill, of Auckland. A special feature will be cornet and euphonium solos by Messrs. Lowe and Taylor. Both players will render the test selections to be played at the forthcoming band contest at Palmerston. Special coloured lighting effects and extra seating have been secured, and with a full moon and a fine night there should be a large attendance. The Pipe Band Will march through the town in full regalia, and during the evening march round the lake, an effective item.

TH, FEBRUARY 27, 1924

TRAM EXTENSION TO THE PARK

A development which may be expected to take place sooner than the duplication on the main route is the laying of the Liardet Street branch from Devon Street to Pukekura Park.

The Mayor stated that all the required material is in the Dominion, except the overhead gear for the Liardet Street junction, and it will be discharged at New Plymouth from the Maimoa, which is expected to arrive during March. While the council hopes that the extension will be in use by the time the football season is in progress next winter, it is improbable that a start will be made before the new financial year, which begins with April.

The length of the extension will be 32 Chains, and it will be served by the tram which runs to and from Westown.

TDN, MARCH 10, 1924

**QUEEN OF THE CARNIVAL
OVER £2000 REALISED
FETE IN THE PARK**

Amidst great enthusiasm Miss Maisie Whittle (City East), with 50,358 votes out of a total of 176,453, was proclaimed Queen elect in the Pukekura Park Queen Carnival on Saturday night. City East's victory was a narrow and last minute one over Vogeltown, whose candidate, Miss Flossie Washer, polled 44,452 votes. The order of the other candidates was: Miss Margaret Lovell (West City) 31,044 votes; Miss Nettie Cameron (Fitzroy) 29,432 votes and Miss Nancy Thomson (Moturoa) 21,167 votes.

The carnival has realised a little over £2000. The coronation ceremony will be held in the park in about three weeks' time. The competition for the best decorated queen court at Saturday's garden fete was won by Fitzroy, Vogeltown being second, with West City, City East and Moturoa following in that order.

Interest in the carnival reached its climax on Saturday when the central executive conducted a highly successful floral fete on the sports ground at Pukekura Park. Dull weather in the morning was succeeded by an ideal afternoon for such a function, and the executive was well rewarded for its efforts by the way in which the public thronged the terraces, and later patronised the afternoon tea booths and money-extracting stalls conducted by the committees supporting the queen candidates. At night, too, there was another large attendance to listen to the concert by the lake and to hear the result of the poll.

A CHARMING SCENE.

The number of items on the programme of the floral fete in the afternoon was small, but they were decidedly good. In fact, many old residents Of New Plymouth said they had never seen the sports ground present such a charming spectacle as when the procession of decorated children, perambulators, tricycles, bicycles and motor cars wended its way around the arena. The taste displayed in the decorated perambulator section, particularly, was

something of which those responsible might well be proud. Not only were the colour schemes harmonious, but the effect obtained with a few flowers and pieces of silk and ribbon was in all cases decidedly picturesque. Each little competitor differed in a greater or less degree from her predecessor, but the procession was marshalled in such a way that there was no violent clashing of colours or of schemes of decoration.

The event of the fete was the fascinating display made by the queen candidates and their courts. The public had been led to expect something decidedly novel from each candidate, and they were not disappointed. The Moturoa candidate drew first place in the procession with City West, Vogeltown, City East and Fitzroy following in that order. It was a pity that a last minute change in the arrangements had prevented Miss Thomson's supporters from completing their scheme of decoration. As it was the beautiful intertwining of variegated asters and blue ribbons making a canopy above the car was offset by the naked outlines of the machine itself below. This was more apparent to the spectators on the lower terraces than to those on the higher terraces, from which the effect obtained was very pretty. Miss Thomson was attended by Misses Aroha Parkinson, Marjorie Stevens and Nellie Carter.

FAIRY TALE PICTURES.

For Miss Lovell, the West City committee had completely enveloped a car



with the body of a huge white swan, made of paper stitched on a cloth frame. Miss Lovell and her court, Misses Beryl Lobb, Ann Brodie and Marjorie Millar, were seated in an opening in the swan's back, and drew many rounds of applause as they made their appearance before the crowded terraces.

Vogeltown also made use of a white swan as the basis of their decorative scheme and the completeness of their efforts was such that at every glimpse one could not help recalling the fairy tales of Grimm and Anderson. The picture was one of a swan reposing in a nest garlanded with water lilies. Simply nestling in the cosy feathers and down of the swan's back was the young fairy princess (Miss Washer) with wings and wand complete, while before her sat her diminutive page and maids of honour, Misses Betty Edgecombe, Nancy Moore and Flora Allen holding pink ribbon guiding reins with which to direct their fairy carriage to the land of never ending sunshine. Structurally the swan was a masterpiece, individual tail and wing feathers adding a realistic note which was heightened by the huge worm which seemed to be always within a point of disappearing into the

open bill of the swan. Except for the wheels the car was completely hidden, the driver seeing his road through a small opening in the swan's neck.

A different note was struck by City East, for whom Miss Barbara Allen acted as queen candidate in the stead of Miss



Whittle, unfortunately the victim of an attack of influenza on the eve of a successful campaign. Their car was decorated with red, white and blue paper bands, flanked on one side with the royal arms and surmounted by a canopy of blue streamers, the junction of which formed the base for a gold crown. Red, white and blue discs on the wheels completed what was undoubtedly a very pretty scheme. Miss Allen's court comprised Misses Abbey Kenny, Rosa Weston and Nancy Milne.

THE WINNING DISPLAY

It was left to Fitzroy, however, to present the most striking picture of the procession and, in gaining the popular verdict, Miss Cameron's supporters were given the award for what was nothing less than a magnificent effort. On the chassis of a light truck was erected a pergola calling to mind the groves of ancient Greece. The supports and cross pieces of the pergola were designed to give the appearance of strength, and rising from a foundation of white paper, which came to within a few inches of the ground, the whole structure looked as if it had been hewn from pure Italian marble. A few pot plants, fern baskets and trailing vines lent a cool out-of-doors note, which was heightened by the appearance in classical robes of Miss Cameron and her court (Misses Nola Martin, Thelma Warburton and Wynneth Thompson).

TDN, MARCH 14, 1924

OBITUARY.

**MISS MAISIE WHITTLE
QUEEN-ELECT OF CARNIVAL.**

After a very short illness Miss Lillian May (Maisie) Whittle, eldest daughter of Mr. E. Whittle, and queen-elect of the Pukekura Park queen carnival, died at her residence in Devon Street, New Plymouth, yesterday afternoon. Miss Whittle caught a chill last week and on Friday was compelled to remain in her room, pleurisy having developed. An attack of



pneumonia followed, and on Monday Miss Whittle's condition became critical. She rallied a little yesterday morning, but the strain was too great and she died at 4.30 in the afternoon. Miss Whittle was only in her twentieth year.

The death of Miss Whittle provides a tragic ending to the queen carnival. The queen candidate of the City East district, she was as indefatigable as her committee in her efforts to make the carnival a success, and when she topped the poll on Saturday she was the recipient of congratulations on all sides, congratulations which were tempered with expressions of regret that her illness had prevented her from taking her place in the floral fete in the sportsground on Saturday afternoon. All, however, looked forward to seeing her crowned queen of the carnival at the coronation ceremony in a few weeks' time.

Miss Whittle was born in New Plymouth on December 2, 1904. She was educated at the New Plymouth convent and the Girls' High School. Bright and cheery and of a sunny disposition at all times, she was a real New Zealand out-of-doors girl, her chief recreations being swimming (in which she took a very great interest), hockey and tennis. She was a member of the New Plymouth High School Old Girls' Hockey Club, for whom she played the season before last, her visit to Australia with her father preventing her from taking a prominent part in the club last year. She was also a member of the Fitzroy Tennis Club. The illness which caused her death was the first illness she had had in her life. The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon, the cortege leaving her residence at half past two.

The sympathy of the businessmen of New Plymouth with Mr. Whittle and the bereaved family was expressed by the council of the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce last night, when the president (Mr. P. E. Stainton) made feeling reference to Miss Whittle's efforts on behalf of Pukekura Park in the queen carnival campaign. The news of her death, he said, had come as a great shock to the town. The council stood in silence for a few moments in passing a resolution of sympathy.

TH, MARCH 19, 1924

SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE

A meeting of the New Plymouth Sports Ground Committee was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. A. L. Humphries presiding. There also present: Messrs. J. McLeod, G. E. Jago, F. Amooore, E. Jackson, J. Clark, O. Cook, F. C. Ferry, F. J. Hill, H. Townsley, A. T. Moore, J. Garcia, and L. Little (secretary).

It was decided to proceed with the laying of a wooden floor in the new dressing shed, and also to provide necessary lockers and fittings.

The Grounds Committee was requested to obtain quotations for rollers that would be suitable for the grounds.

A letter was received from the New Plymouth Acclimatisation Society asking for permission to connect up with the water service to the dressing sheds in order to provide water for the hatcheries.

It was decided to refer the society to the Park Board.

The matter of purchasing a flood light was deferred. The general feeling of the committee was that two lights would be necessary to properly illumine the grounds and members did not feel justified in incurring such expenditure at this juncture.

The North Taranaki Cricket Association applied for the use of the sports ground for a cricket match against Wellington on Good Friday and Easter Saturday. The request was granted, but it was understood that the grounds would be available for football immediately after Easter.

DN, MARCH 25, 1924

Information about the source of the timber for St Mary's Church, extracted from an article about the missing foundation stone.

Great care was taken in the selection and seasoning of the timber, a great deal of which was obtained from the gullies where Pukekura Park now is. The timber was all hand sawn and then dragged down to the Huatoki River, where it was chained down under the surface of the water for seasoning. Some of this timber is still in the church, and it is in a splendid condition.

TDN, APRIL 7, 1924

TRAMS TO THE PARK PLANS FOR EXTENSION

WORK MAY START NEXT WEEK

Everything is in readiness for the extension of the New Plymouth tramway system in Pukekura Park, and it is understood that the work of laying the track may be commenced next week.

The extension presents practically no engineering difficulties, the chief work being the laying down of the triangle at the intersection of Devon and Liardet Streets. It is considered that the whole of the work can be completed in two months. The track will run from Devon Street to the park gates, a short branch being constructed along Gilbert Street, which will be the point at which the Vogelton cars will turn off when the extension to that suburb is put under way.

The extension to the park, besides serving a fairly thickly populated residential area, will also provide easy transit means for football patrons on Saturdays. It is expected that the Westown cars, the town terminus for which it at present Liardet Street, will maintain the service on this extra portion of the system.

TH, APRIL 15, 1924

ACCLIMATISATION MEETING (EXTRACT)

The society have ordered 150,000 rainbow ova from Rotorua, and 200,000 brown trout ova from Hakataramea for the coming season. The hatchery was not used last season owing to defective paint work on the troughs. New troughs have been obtained and are installed in readiness for this seasons work.

The society has also been able to obtain a supply of pure, filtered water, from the Borough of New Plymouth thanks to the good offices of the Mayor (Mr. F. E. Wilson) and the chairman (Mr. J. Brown) and members of the works committee of the Borough Council.

TH, APRIL 16, 1924

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board, held on Tuesday evening, was attended by Messrs. H. Dempsey (chairman), R. C. Hughes, C. E. Bellringer, F. Amooore, W. F. Short and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary) apologies for absence were received from Messrs. W. C. Weston, A. T. Moore and J. McLeod.

Before the business of the board was proceeded with the chairman referred to the very sad ending which had attended the Queen Carnival. On his motion it was resolved: "That that this board places on record its sincere sympathy with Mr. E. Whittle and family in their recent very sad bereavement."

The net proceeds of the carnival were £2396 5s, the secretary reported. Under the arrangement made for the division of the proceeds, the board received the first £500 and the balance was divided equally between the board and the Sports Ground Committee, providing £948 2s 6d for each. The board thus received a total of £1448 2s 6d and the Sports Ground Committee £948 2s 6d. The actual division had been made and £1400 of the board's share was now earning interest in a saving bank at the rate of 4.5 per cent., while the balance was in the current account.

In reply to Mr. Hughes, it was stated that the total amount of the expense was not known, as each committee had paid its own way and handed over only the net proceeds to the central executive. It was safe to assume that they had been kept to a minimum.

The chairman and other members said that the result of the carnival was remarkable. They instanced the heavy proportion of proceeds that had gone in expenses in connection with similar efforts in some other places.

The question of what use should be made of the funds was briefly discussed, but decision was left to be made at a later meeting, to be preceded by a visit to the park. Mr. Bellringer strongly advocated the claims of a fernery on an imposing scale as a suitable object for part of the expenditure and he also suggested the advisability of investing, say, £500 to form an endowment. The board now had a sum of £100 set aside in that manner.

THANKS TO THE WORKERS.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, it was resolved: "The Pukekura Park Board desire to express their very high appreciation of the valuable services of all those who assisted in the recent carnival to raise funds for the board. The very large sum of £1448 2s 6d—the boards share—comes at a time when the condition of the board's finances had given cause for anxiety. To the members of the various committees, and especially to the chairman and members of the central executive, the board expresses its most sincere thanks."

OTHER MATTERS

The work of the staff during the last month had included a great deal of

cleaning up after the storm, the chairman reported. Overhanging vegetation had been cleared from the side of the large lake and opening out among the trees had been carried out. During the storm a large poplar tree had fallen upon one end of the boat shed, crushing it rather badly. Permission was given for the laying of water to the Acclimatisation Society's hatcheries, the work to be subject to the supervision of the custodian.

In reply to a letter from the Borough Council as to the board's views on an application for lights to be installed in the park on the walk leading to Vogelstown, it was resolved that the board was strongly favourable and, in accordance with previous resolutions, would facilitate the work.

TDN, APRIL 26, 1924

PUKEKURA PARK.

SCHEME OF IMPROVEMENTS.

An inspection of Pukekura Park, with a view to mapping out a scheme of future improvements, was made by the Park Board yesterday morning, those comprising the party being Messrs. H. Dempsey (chairman) F. Amooore, C. E. Bellringer, A. T. Moore, W. F. Short and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

Improvements along the path leading from the tea kiosk to the John Street entrance will be put into operation as soon as possible, and from the young plantation on the town side of John Street all damaged and dead trees will be removed and the plantation cleaned up generally. At present this plantation is buffeted by the wind but will make more headway as soon as the ake ake hedge is tall enough to provide shelter. The trees planted by the Taranaki Jockey club will also afford further protection. The rhododendron bed at the head of the valley at the back of the small racecourse grandstand is looking well, and the plants are beginning to come into bud. After certain slight improvements suggested by the members of the board this valley will be one of the most beautiful spots in the park.

An inspection was made of the racecourse. At present this locality is an eyesore, and it has been suggested that the ground be drained and planted out. The work entailed would not be great and it would certainly be a vast improvement to that end of the park.

No definite plan has yet been adopted for the construction of the new fernery, but the matter is at present under consideration. During the walk round the grounds it was seen that the recent gale had left a trail of damage in its wake, and the damage will be difficult to hide for some time to come. Even the hardy native shrubs have felt the severity of the gale.

TH, MAY 5, 1924

**TRAMS TO THE PARK
CONSTRUCTION OF THE LINE
COMMENCED**

A commencement was made on Saturday night with the work of laying the tramway track from Devon Street, at the junction of Liardet Street, to the entrance to Pukekura Park. A gang of men was employed under the

supervision of time tramways manager (Mr. J. Wyatt) in inseting the point in the present track, by which cars from the eastern end of the town may be switched on to the line to the park. The men had a very unenviable experience working in the bitter cold of the elements on Saturday night. They worked well, however, and by 10 o'clock on Sunday morning the first double set of points was in position.

To-day further excavation work was done in preparation for laying down the crossings in the main track which it is expected will be done tonight, and the next step will be the inseting of the points which are to make the connection between the main line and the new line for cars coming from a westerly direction.

The points are of automatic type and will not necessitate the stopping of cars for the purpose of altering points. All the material for the construction work is in hand, a depot for rails, etc., having been established in Pendarves Street. It is expected the work will be completed early next month.

TH, MAY 21, 1924

**PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING
PLANS FOR FERNERY TO PROCEED**

The Pukekura Park Board instructed a sub-committee on Tuesday night to bring down plans for fernery to cost approximately £500 for consideration by the board at its next meeting. Mr. H. Dempsey (Chairman) presided and there were present: Messrs. F. E. Wilson, C. E. Bellringer, F. Amooore, R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, W. F. Short and A. T. Moore.

Details of the proposed scheme were discussed by Mr. Bellringer, who said that the committee who had the matter in hand felt that unless some indication of the amount available for the scheme was given it would be impossible to draw up anything in the nature of a plan. When it was known how much the board would spend plans could be drafted and if anything was to be done this year it would have to be done at once.

If carried out on the right, lines the Fernery, Mr. Bellringer said, would become the big feature of the park. Several enthusiasts had promised help in various directions, while Mr. Wheeler, who possessed expert knowledge on the subject, had offered to act as honorary curator. The speaker also reminded the board that during the big effort to raise funds it was stated that some of the money would be spent in work of a permanent nature. He suggested a minimum of £500 for the works, which would be used in filling in the swamp, erecting a bush house and purchasing ferns, etc. He also mentioned that a number of ferns would be given to the park.

The chairman considered that to spend £500 at once was too much. There were other things in the park that required attention. He felt that the fernery should be built up gradually. He was in favour of even a larger amount if it was spread over a number of years.

Members all appreciated the asset which the fernery would later become to the grounds and after further discussion

decided in the direction already indicated.

It was intimated that Mr. G. Tunnecliffe for reasons of health had resigned his position as curator, to take effect from the end of the month. A sub-committee, consisting of the chairman and Mr. Bellringer, was appointed to make an appointment to fill the vacancy.

The question of securing another boat for lake was raised by Mr. Weston, and it was left to the chairman and Mr. Short to endeavour to secure a new boat for next season.

A committee consisting of the chairman. Messrs. Amooore and Short was appointed to arrange for the removal of certain of the pinus insignis trees in the park where they are retarding growth.

It was decided to inform the Borough Council that the board would offer no objection to the council rounding off the corner of the board's section at the intersection of Liardet and Gilbert Streets for tramway purposes.

TH, MAY 27, 1924

**NEW SPORTS PAVILION
NEW BUILDING THOROUGHLY
EQUIPPED.**

A BOON TO ATHLETES.

To the ordinary citizen the new pavilion erected at the Sports Ground in Pukekura Park is but an improvement, an asset to the grounds. However, to the athlete, who has for years undergone the trials and tribulations of changing in the dilapidated wooden structure—which formerly occupied the site of the present building—the pavilion, with all its modern appliances, is something for which to be very thankful.

The building is constructed of reinforced concrete and its general appearance is extremely attractive. Concrete buildings, however well designed, usually appear stiff and angular, but owing to the prolific growth which surrounds the pavilion and well nigh hides the rear portion of it from view, the sharp corners and stiff faces are softened until the whole structure takes on a natural appearance and harmonises perfectly with the adjacent trees and bushes.

The interior of the building, which is partitioned off into three rooms, is spotlessly clean, and is a credit to the caretaker (Mr. T. H. Booth). Upon stepping into the building, one is in a large room—changing room—and here a footballer, for example, may don his "togs" without going to the trouble of wiping his boots on his next-door neighbour's trousers, or, after the game, may be spared the pleasure of making a prolonged, but in the end futile search in the gathering dusk and among filthy jerseys for the elusive back stud.

The changing room is fitted with forty neat pigeon-holes, and in these players may pack their clothes. On either side of these pigeon-holes there are doors which lead into two shower rooms. Each room is fitted with five showers and every shower has a hot and cold-water tap connected to it, in order that a bather may regulate the temperature of the water to his liking.

At the back of the pavilion there is a spacious latrine, open to the public, and a boiler room. In the latter a compact boiler is fitted up and, according to Mr. Booth, in twenty minutes it is capable of heating enough water to supply four teams. For the sake of those who come without towels the caretaker keeps stock on hand and lets them out at a small cost. At present the electricians are at work in the building, and in a few days' time it will be fitted throughout with electric light.

The pavilion is indeed a credit to the Sports Ground Committee, and is certainly in keeping with the grounds, which are improving year by year.

TDN, JUNE 10, 1924
THOMAS HORTON HIRED

At the last meeting of the Pukekura Park Board Mr. Thos. Horton was appointed superintendent of the park. Mr. Horton has had considerable experience in horticulture, having been the founder and managing director of Thos. Horton and Co., Ltd. He was also for some years president of the Nurserymen's Association and travelled over South Africa and Eastern Asia in connection with his work. He is, by examination, a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, England.

TH, JUNE 18, 1924
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING
PROPOSED FERNERY DESCRIBED.
DECISION TO SPEND UP TO £500.

Despite its area, New Zealand can boast of possessing the greatest variety ferns in the world, yet it is an impossibility for one to point to any reserve, botanical garden, or conservatory and say that that place contains complete collection of New Zealand ferns" Mr. W. H. Besley stated at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park board, on Thursday night.

Mr. Besley who is very interested in the park attended the meeting by invitation to outline plans and ideas in connection with the proposed fernery.

Members of the board present were Messrs. H Dempsey (chairman) P. E. Stainton, W. C. Weston, R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, J. McLeod and C. E. Bellringer. Apologies were received from the Mayor and Mr. F. Amooore.

The idea was to excavate three chambers, one in front and two behind, Mr. Besley said. The walls separating these chambers would be 8 feet thick, in order to support the roof, which was to be covered with glass. The dimensions of the chambers, taken from the roof level, would be 30 feet by 50 ft for the front and 60 feet by 30 feet for the two rear ones. As it was proposed to terrace many of the walls, the area at the bottom of the chambers would be considerably less than that at the top. These terraces were for the purpose of planting the many varieties of ferns on, said Mr. Besley, and by adopting such a scheme it was hoped to cover the whole face of the walls with a screen of growth. Walks would also be constructed in such places

as would enable the public to gain the best views of the place.

The main object of having three chambers was to avoid conformity, Mr. Besley continued. With this object in view, each chamber would be in itself something new. The chamber to the left of the entrance would contain tree trunks covered with orchids, etc., the idea being to depict a bush scene. In the chamber to the right a waterfall would be constructed, and would serve a dual purpose, to supply the humid atmosphere so necessary to ferns, and to enable ferns which live only near running water (the Prince of Wales fern, for instance), to be grown. The entrance into the two rear chambers would be effected through tunnels.

When asked if such a proposal would mean great expense, Mr. Besley said that the only thing that would be at all expensive would be the roof. Other towns when building such a place, had been handicapped by having no means by which they could dispose of the soil excavated, consequently they were forced to go to considerable expenditure to have it removed. The park Board however, would be more fortunate, as at the rear of the proposed site was a swamp, an ideal spot for dumping the soil, and later on a bush hut, for taller varieties of ferns, might be built there.

Once the place had been established, Mr. Besley felt, very little labour would be necessary to keep it in order.

Mr. Dempsey thanked Mr. Besley for his trouble and stated that a great deal of work had been done by Mrs. Lovell, of Hawera, to whom the board were deeply indebted.

Mr. Bellringer thought that iron girders over the roof would be more substantial than wood, for wood seemed to come away from concrete in time Also, he thought that such men as Messrs. Wheeler and Maxwell were so keen upon such a scheme they should not delay in building a fernery. Apart from the fact that it, would show people that something was being done with their money, it would prove to be a great attraction.

WORK OF MONTH.

In outlining the work done during the month Mr. Dempsey stated that most of the time had been taken up in trimming and in the cleaning of paths. Great improvements had been brought about by cleaning the hill near the racecourse and planting native trees. A shelter hedge was to be planted near Mr. Blewman's house. The damage caused to the boat shed by the falling tree had been repaired.

It was decided that a sum of £10 be spent on native trees to be planted at one of the entrances.

A letter was received from Mr. T. Horton, who is to be the superintendent at the park, stating the conditions under which he is prepared to take over the position of superintendent.

Mr. Weston moved that his salary should be increased to £400. Mr. McLeod seconded the motion, and it was carried. Mr. Bellringer moved that an agreement should be drawn up, merely as legal document. Although Mr. Horton had at

present little knowledge of native trees. Mr. Bellringer felt that it would not be long before he would become conversant with the trees. In every respect, he felt that Mr. Horton was very suitable for the position. Mr. Horton would take over responsibilities on July 1.

Mr. Weston proposed that a letter should be sent to Mr. Tunnecliffe thanking him for the admirable manner in which he had fulfilled his duties.

Mr. Bellringer felt that, if a residence was built in the park for the superintendent, the amount of £78 would be saved annually. Also, as many valuable plants, etc., were now in the park it was essential that someone should live nearby. He proposed that the chairman, Messrs. McLeod, Amooore, Short and himself should form a committee to consult the board's architect, and find out the cost.

TH, JULY 1, 1924
TRAMS TO THE PARK
OPENING PROBABLY ON
SATURDAY.
QUESTION OF SECTIONS.

Efforts are being made to secure the required certificate from the Public Works Department in time to enable the Liardet Street tramway extension to be brought into use on Saturday when there will be football at Pukekura Park.

A suggestion that for the time being, at least, the extension be added to the existing section at the town end of the Westown route was agreed to by the council on Monday evening. The tramways manager's report, which was adopted, was: -

"I would recommend that this line be run in conjunction with the Westown route, and that there be an overlapping section between Egmont Street and Park entrance in Gilbert Street, and vice versa, and stopping places be as follows: Liardet and Devon Streets, in Liardet Street, (compulsory stop and end of section from Morley Street); Borough Offices (request stop); Pendarves Street (request stop); Gilbert Street (request stop); Park Entrance (terminus). As it may be necessary to make slight adjustments to fit in with the present Westown time-table, I would respectfully suggest that the time-table be left in my hands for the present, as I would like to make several tests of running time before fixing anything definite."

TDN, JULY 12, 1924
FIRST TRAM TO PUKEKURA PARK

The tram service to Pukekura Park was commenced yesterday at noon, when a car ran as far as the Gilbert Street terminus direct from Westown. To Motorman G. White belongs the honour of inaugurating the regular service, the passengers on the first trip being the Mayor (Mr. F. E. Wilson), the tramways manager (Mr. G. J. Wyatt), a member of the overhead gear staff (Mr. R. Lang), and a Daily News reporter. The service was maintained without a hitch during the afternoon, and it is expected that it will be well patronised this afternoon, when every available car will be

requisitioned for carrying passengers to and from the football match.

TH, JULY 16, 1924

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

Members of the Pukekura Park Board met at the Park on Tuesday afternoon and, accompanied by Mr. T. Horton, the newly appointed superintendent, made an inspection of the park with a view to deciding upon general work to be undertaken in the immediate future.

In the evening the monthly meeting of the board was held. In the unavoidable absence of the chairman (Mr. H. Dempsey), Mr. C. E. Bellringer presided, and there were also present the Mayor (Mr. F. E. Wilson), Messrs. R. C. Hughes, F. Amooore, W. F. Short, J. McLeod, A. T. Moore, and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

It was reported that the Electric Light Department was engaged in installing the light through the park.

It was decided to employ a certain amount of casual labour for one month so that the park can be thoroughly cleaned up.

The chairman and Messrs. Bellringer, Amooore, McLeod and Short were appointed a works committee for the ensuing month to confer with the superintendent.

Mr. Bellringer explained that at the next meeting of the board the committee appointed to go into the question of a superintendent's residence would present its report. The committee had not arrived at any definite conclusion yet as to what its ultimate recommendations to the board would be, but the general was that the most suitable site for the residence was near Fillis Street.

Several accounts were passed for payment.

TH, JULY 16, 1924

SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE

A meeting of Pukekura Park Sports Ground Committee was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. L. B. Webster presiding. There were also present, Messrs. A. L. Humphries, F. J. Hill, J. Clarke, O. Cook, F. C. Ferry, J. McLeod, A. E. Kretschmar, A. T. Moore, and L. Little (secretary).

It was decided to grant the use of the grounds to the New Plymouth Technical College for its match against Stratford Technical High School on Thursday, and to the New Plymouth Boys' high School on Thursday week for the match against Wanganui College.

The secretary reported that the funds in hand amounted to £435, but that there were several accounts outstanding.

It was decided to purchase a new roller.

Mr. Humphries that a floodlight had been erected at the grounds, and his action in connection with the matter was confirmed.

It was decided to write to the Cricket Association requesting remittance of an outstanding account amounting to £37 18s.

A sub-committee was appointed to confer with representatives of the Park Board in regard to several matters.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. T. H. Bates for his kindness in designing and carrying out

the architectural work in respect to the new pavilion, and a similar compliment was extended to Messrs. Smart Bros. for their donation of a water-heater for use in the pavilion.

A number of accounts were passed for payment and other business of a routine nature transacted.

TH, AUGUST 1, 1924

FISH PROPAGATION.

WHAT ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY IS DOING.

TROUT FRY FOR LIBERATION.

After a break last year, the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society has resumed operations in its refitted hatcheries in Pukekura Park, where nearly 400,000 trout ova are being hatched this season for liberation in the streams of Taranaki. After two seasons' working operations last year had to be suspended on account of the lake water that was used proving unsuitable because of fungoid growth, fatal to the fry, appearing in the troughs and hatching trays. The installation of the municipal water supply has completely removed this trouble and in the course of a few weeks more over 200,000 brown and rainbow trout fry will be ready for liberation. A few years' hatching on this scale, accompanied by successful liberation (providing always the fry escape the ravages of eels and the snares of poachers) and with the cool rushing mountain-fed streams breeding lusty fighters, Taranaki fishing will become a lure for tourists and a paradise for anglers.

A visit was paid to the society's hatchery by a Herald reporter on Thursday and an insight gained of the early lives of these young fish and something learned of the extent of the society's work which is now being carried on by Mr. A. Kean, formerly of Hawera, whose experience and capabilities are well known. Until his arrival, just recently, Mr. W. B. Bell, a vice-president of the society, was superintending the hatchery.

Some little time back the society received 60,000 brown trout ova from the Government hatcheries at Hakataramea (South Island). These have been hatched and will be ready for liberation in streams throughout the district within about a fortnight. Another 42,000 brown trout ova are hatching, while a further lot of 100,000 expected shortly. In addition, 100,000 rainbow ova, received from Rotorua, have just been hatched and 75,000 eyed ova are in the trays and should hatch within a few days. The 100,000 brow trout ova is the final batch for this season's hatching.

The hatching from the newly spawned egg usually takes from 50 to 60 days, according to the temperature of the water, but as no intimation as to the age of the ova when shipped is sent by the forwarding hatchery, the time when the fry will emerge after the ova is placed on the trays here can only be roughly calculated.

CURIOSITIES AT HATCHERY.

Trout fry are curious little creatures. Instinct compels them to seek dark places for protection and like the ostrich, with their heads under cover, they often

imagine they are unseen and immune from danger. They are provisioned by Nature for the first 30 days of their journey through life and their larder consists of a yoke-sac carried on the under part of their much smaller bodies. Twins occur even in fish-life and there were to be seen queer little double-barrelled fish darting hither and thither. Regular Siamese twins! Again, others had two heads, but the curator said it was rare that these, so funnily deformed, lived very long and one felt relieved because of the awkward situations that might arise in the case of the twins both snapping at the same fly.

The hatchery, which is situated at the head of the lily pond in the park, is very efficiently equipped and is capable of dealing with half a million ova. A lead from the borough water supply feeds a large concrete tank, from which water is taken to the eight rows of troughs. Fresh water is absolutely essential and it must be kept thoroughly aerated in order to provide oxygen for the fish to breathe. For this purpose the water falls several feet from the supply into the tank and again drops in flowing from one trough to another. The eggs during hatching are kept in a steady stream of fresh water, which under the Williamson method always passes up through the mesh of the trays on which the ova are placed. Trouble last year was experienced with the water which was secured from the lake and caused a slimy deposit on the troughs. New troughs were secured and these were coated as is usual with asphaltum paint, a bituminous preparation which takes on a glass-like surface and prevents the growth of any wood fungoids. Everything is now working thoroughly satisfactorily.

LIBERATION NOT SIMPLE.

Liberation is the problem which now confronts the society, and the magnitude of the task is in keeping with its importance. Whether the fry find natural protection and flourish or fall easy victims to their enemies which are ever ready to make tasty meal off them, depends upon the manner in which they are liberated. Sown two or three at a time, the infant fish quickly hide themselves in the dark recesses of the shingle beds where their food is to be found and attract no attention, but emptied in holus bolus, as many imagine they are, or even sown in groups of a hundred or more, they remain in nests and are easily scented by bullies, eels and other fish. As can be concluded, the liberation of 200,000 fry on this system is a lengthy job and is one that taxes the resources of the society so far as help is concerned to the extent that offers of assistance would be greatly appreciated.

The fry are transferred to the rivers a few days before their yoke-sacs are depleted, so that they will be well provided for during the early days in their new surroundings. Their liberation before artificial feeding need be resorted to is considered better for most purposes than the rearing of bigger fish which, when fed up to the yearling stage, are bred with a false sense of security. In addition the society has not yet the accommodation

to keep them to this stage, even if it desired to do so.

In regard to liberation, it has been said that the society would welcome any assistance, but it is also willing to supply fry to farmers and others who possess strongly flowing streams or small lakes which they are desirous of stocking. Private fish culture would be of great service in maintaining and increasing the fish supply. Fish-culturists assert that an acre of water can be made to yield more food than an acre of land and, it is said, this has been demonstrated. But the resources of water-farming have yet to be explored in New Zealand.

The brown trout fry are to be liberated in streams throughout the district, while the rainbow will be put in the Stony, Upper Waiwhakaiho and the Okahu Rivers, which are the chief rainbow rivers and the most heavily fished. Unfortunately the society was unable to procure yearlings for restocking the Power Board's reservoir at Opunake and it has decided to supply rainbow fry, which should be ready in about three or four weeks' time.

The society's hatchery at the park is open to visitors on any afternoon, when Mr. Kean is only too pleased to explain the processes of an occupation in which he is so ardently interested.

TH, AUGUST 20, 1924

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. F. E. Wilson, F. Amooore, R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, C. E. Bellringer, J. M'Leod, and A. T. Moore. Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, was also present.

Apologies were received from Messrs. W. C. Weston and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

Messrs. Weston and Billing wrote informing the board that by his will the late Mr. Alexander Shuttleworth had bequeathed to the board the sum of £20, and, acting on instructions received from the executors, they enclosed cheque for this amount.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The superintendent reported that after making a careful inspection of the park he had, with the staff, attended to the most urgent work first. All trees planted in the area near the racecourse had been pruned, cleaned, dug around and put in order, and an ake ake hedge along the road frontage of the same area had been cleaned up and all failures replaced. The boundary fence between the board's property and that of Mr. Rockel had been replaced with a live hedge. Cannon Hill had been thoroughly cleaned up and several varieties of native tree ferns and trees planted. All that portion of the park around the lower lake and waterfall, and between the Gilbert Street and Carrington Road entrances had been cleaned up, young trees dug around, useless growth removed, and pruning, etc., attended to. Most of that area generally known as the native bush area had been cleaned up and the most valuable native trees such as rimu, miro, Totara, rewarewa, etc., cleared around to give them headroom. Some trees were

irretrievably ruined as specimen trees because they had been left too long unattended, but the greater portion he hoped to save and ultimately get into such order that they would be a credit to the park. Other small areas had been cleaned up but a great deal remained to be done if the better trees were to have a chance for development. He had secured trees as authorised for the extension of the rhododendron dell. The usual work had been done in and around the sports ground. He was pleased to report gifts of trees and plants from Mr. Chas. Sanders, Messrs. Duncan and Davies, Ltd., and Mr. J. Wheeler. Regret was expressed that vandalism was rife in the park, and strong measures should be taken to stop the nuisance. Signposts had been broken down, seats torn up and broken, many trees mutilated, and some of the newly planted tree ferns pulled up. The extra labour allowed had considerably helped with essential work, and he would be glad to have authority to keep the two extra men for a further period. Some trees in the park were badly diseased and he had procured the necessary spraying material and apparatus for dealing with it.

On the motion of Messrs. Short and Moore thanks were expressed to the donors of trees, etc., as mentioned in the superintendent's report.

ACTS OF VANDALISM.

With reference to acts of vandalism reported several members of the board said they had personally had cause to complain of the conduct of youths in the park and regret was expressed that there should be any cause for the board and its officers to protest against any damage at all being done in the park. It should be recognised, even by youths, that the park was there for the benefit of the public, and that it was the duty of all to protect the property.

It was decided to communicate with the principals of the High School and the primary schools suggesting that they bring under the notice of their pupils the fact that trees and ferns, etc., had been damaged, and urge them to co-operate with the authorities and try and see that there was no occasion for further complaint.

VARIOUS MATTERS.

Mr. Short urged that the board should arrange for the superintendent, to collect, native trees for planting in the park, and Mr. Horton said he proposed, to do this whenever opportunity offered.

The matter was referred to the works committee with power to act.

Some discussion arose with reference to the suggestion that extra labour be employed for a little longer period in the park, and it was agreed to employ the two additional men for a further month.

Mr. Amooore said he was very pleased with the work that had been done in the park since Mr. Horton commenced his duties. There was still a lot of tidying up to be done, however, and by employing additional labour for another month now they would make a really good start for the summer, and in the end, he believed, save money.

Other members endorsed Mr. Amooore's remarks and complimented the superintendent on the work already accomplished.

It was decided to have notice boards erected drawing attention to the location

of the hatcheries of the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society in the park.

Preparatory work in connection with the fernery is to be put in hand immediately.

It was decided to donate a white Muscovy drake to the Okaiawa Domain Board.

A cheque for £75 was received from the Sports Ground committee towards the cost of labour on the sports ground for the period ended June 30.

TDN, OCTOBER 6, 1924 TARANAKI KENNEL CLUB FIRST DOG PARADE A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

The Taranaki Kennel Club held a dog parade at Pukekura Park on Saturday. The parade was a success in every way and keen interest was taken in this initial venture of the club, as was seen by the large attendance of the general public and the very satisfactory entries, over fifty being received. The club in to be congratulated on their first venture, and it is safe to surmise that the event will be the forerunner of many more equally successful in the future. Prior to the judging of the numerous entries. Mr. C. H. Weston (president of the club) addressed the gathering. He said that the founders of the club were to be congratulated on their initiative, and he felt sure that the club had a bright future before it. Mr. Weston then called for three cheers for the committee of the club.

Judging then commenced immediately on the sporting classes. There were three main classes, viz., sporting, non-sporting and miniature dogs, which was again divided into silkies, poms over 7lbs., poms under 7lbs., and toys. Messrs. A. T. Moore, F. Dane and F. Willis were judges, Mr. O. N. Firth ring steward, and Mr. J. D. Willis hon. secretary.

The champion ribbon for the best dog on the parade was won by Mr. J. Somerton's smooth-haired fox terrier (Maidestone Donholm). Ribbons were also given for first, Second and third winners in each section. The winners of each section were:—

Sporting.

Setters, any breed.—T. Beange's Gordon Setter (Shot) 1; J. D. Willis' Gordon Setter 2, Mr. O'Donnell's Irish Setter (Pat) 3.

Irish Setters.—Miss Wills 1, W. Wood 2 Spaniels.—C. Aubrey's Bonnetter 1, C. Aubrey's Abe 2, Mrs. J. D. Willis' Ruby 3.

Greyhounds.—E. Doyle's Darkie 1. P. Evetts' King Pirate 2, P. Evetts' Blue Hell 3. F. Harrison's Kotahi (h.c.)

Non-Sporting.

Terriers.—Mr. J. Somerton's smooth-haired Fox (Maidestone Donholm) 1, J. Somerton's smooth haired Fox (Oxon Princess) 2. J. Somerton's smooth-haired Fox (Oxon Prince) 3.

Collies.—T. Corkill's rough-coated (Tawataia Queen) 1, Miss Cuthbertson's bearded (Champion Merry Andrew) 2, S. Hodges' Black Kelpie (Black Lion) 3.

Miniature Dogs.

Silkies.—R. W. D. Robertson's Scotty 1, R. W. D. Robertson's Sandy 2, Mrs. Court's Dooley 3.

Poms (under 7 lbs.).—Mrs. Roebuck's Tewhare Butterfly 1, Master Cooper's Caesar 2, Miss Terril's Tony 3.

Poms (over 7lbs.).—Mrs. Cattley's Bruin 1, Mrs. Reid's Dully 2, Miss Carter's Rex 3.

Toys.—Mr. S. Doyle's Gipsy 1, Mrs. Ridling's Paddy 2, Mrs. Wildermoth's Granny 3.

Best dog on parade.—Mr. J. Somerton's smooth-haired Fox Terrier, Maidstone Donholm.

After the completion of the judging and the ribbons had been issued a grand parade of all the competing dogs was held on the sportsground.

TH, OCTOBER 20, 1924

FELLING OF PINES.

(To the Editor.)

Sir, I notice with regret that the lofty giant pines are being cut down in the park. On many occasions I have stood and looked up at these great trees, more interesting on account of size than any other trees in the park to me. Notice the reflection in lake. The park will soon resemble a farm with stumps abounding. I noticed another eyesore in a most interesting spot, a shed painted red, with an old cart for a companion. It is a great sight from a distance to see these pines and know it is the scene of New Plymouth's beauty spot. I feel sorry to write on this subject, but feel upset to see these trees coming down. New Plymouth beauty spots are being denuded of ferns, foliage, etc., for balls, artificial fences, etc., in spite of the few who are trying to beautify the town. —I am, etc.,

GIANT PINE.

TH, OCTOBER 25, 1924

FELLING OF PINES.

(To the Editor.)

Sir, —Your correspondent "Giant Pines" deserves thanks for drawing attention to the wholesale destruction of giant pines in the park—the product of nearly 50 years' growth. As a member of the board I wish to disassociate myself from the system of tree-felling which has set in. While recognising that a judicious thinning out here and there of the pinus insignis is desirable, I must say that I have been much pained at the felling of the line of magnificent pines on the north side of John Street and of the avenue of pines leading to John St. from the tea-rooms. It seems to me there is too great a readiness to listen to the suggestions made by interested parties to cut down trees. The board is responsible to the community for the preservation of the trees so far as is consistent with the beautification of the park. It was at the suggestion of a person owning a section on the south side of John Street that the trees on the north side were cut down. Magnificent trees have been felled at the suggestion of the Jockey Club, the Cricket Club, and the Sports Ground Committee. The Tennis Club has had

something done for it also, but its demands have been modest, and occasionally a neighbour comes along with a similar request. The Park has claimed the admiration of noted visitors from abroad by its forest-like character, its steep slopes and high ground surmounted with magnificent trees—planted by those who doubtless thought they were planting for posterity. Sir Ryder Haggard was one of those who was loud in his praise of the pine avenue leading from the Carrington Road entrance. Any little town can produce its public gardens comprising lawns, well-kept paths, flower beds and clumps of trees in a comparatively short time. How different is our park with its hills and gullies, lakes and flowing waters. I regret having to trouble you with this long letter, but I feel bound to record my protest, for one cannot tell to what lengths the present destructive tendency will go. I feel that even the Carrington Road avenue of pines is not safe. In the past I have been alone, or almost alone, in my objections. The future will in the ordinary course of nature—one can never tell how soon—impose a limit on my activities. Therefore while I can I desire to enter this protest. —I am, etc.,

R. CLINTON HUGHES.

TH, OCTOBER 29, 1924

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. H. Dempsey (chairman), Mr. C. E. Bellringer was voted to the chair, and there were also present: Messrs. F. E. Wilson, F. Amore, W. F. Short, J. Mcleod, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent).

Apologies were received from Mr. Dempsey and Mr. W. C. Weston.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The superintendent reported that all that portion of the park on the left-hand side of the upper lake and generally known as the native area, has been thoroughly cleaned up, useless growth and rubbish removed and burnt, and necessary pruning and trimming done. That portion of the park beyond the second bridge known as the "long island," which was in a deplorable condition, had also been put into good order. The azalea and rhododendron dells, the rosery, iris bed, and other areas had been dug over and put into good order. The nursery area had been overhauled, trees ready for planting out had been transplanted into permanent position and about one thousand young trees of various kinds, nearly all native, had been planted in the nursery to grow in for future planting in the park. The necessary general maintenance work had been kept fairly well done. This included such work as keeping all paths in order and sweeping and gathering up rubbish, repairing bridges, culverts, seats and hillside steps, etc. At the request of the fernery sub-committee he had had all the large trees on the fernery site and those in the

vicinity which were likely to cause trouble felled and cut up for firewood, posts, etc., and the site had been ready for some for the work of excavation. Firewood left after felling a number of pine trees was being sold to the best advantage and he was hopeful that he would be able to derive income sufficient from this source to pay the greater part of the cost of the extra labour that had been employed. In the sports area seed sowing and top-dressing had been done. This was work necessitating a good deal of labour and extra men had to be put on, but this was all charged up to the Sports Ground Committee. A shed had been built by the Sports Committee on the site mutually agreed upon, and this would serve to house implements.

Anxious not to miss a season he had had as much of the ground as possible where the pines were felled cleaned up and suitable trees purchased and planted. About three hundred trees and plants were put in. The main feature of the John Street walk planting was an avenue of kauri, rimu and totara. Mr. F. Morshead, Messrs. Duncan and Davies and Mr. Bridgeman had donated trees and plants. The boats were in fair condition. The demand for their use was increasing, but on account of the unnecessarily rough use of the oars by young men some had been broken and he had to procure a pair of new ones. He suggested purchasing a new boat as agreed to some time ago.

Mr. Short and the secretary were appointed a sub-committee and were authorised to purchase a new boat.

RETAILERS SEEKING INFORMATION.

Mr. D. L. C. Morgan, secretary of the New Plymouth Retailers' Association, wrote that matters in connection with the parks in the Borough and their upkeep were brought up at a recent meeting and discussed and that he had been instructed to ask for the following information: (1) The expenditure on the upkeep of Pukekura Park, particularly salaries, and what amount was paid to the curator; (2) position of the playing area in regard to the status of the Sports Ground Committee, terms of their control of the ground, and source of revenue; (3) what are the contributions made by the Rugby Union and Cricket Association, particularly in regard to percentages of the gates and the disposition of these funds.

It was decided to reply to the effect that the information so far as the board's financial position was concerned would be seen in the statement of receipts and expenditure for the year. Other information asked for would no doubt be forthcoming if application was made to the Sports Ground Committee, which had charge of the grounds.

FINANCIAL.

The secretary submitted the estimate of receipts and expenditure for the year as follows: -

Receipts.—Balance April, 1923, £61 2s 4d; boat hire and wood sales, £110 16s 9d; rents, £71 10s; proceeds of concerts, £40 13s; New Plymouth Borough

Council subsidy, £250; New Plymouth Sports Ground, £25; interest, Mortgage Loan Company, £6; donations, £18 10s; proceeds Queen Carnival, £2396 5s; total, £2979 17s 1d. Payments.—Wages £494 8s 2d; painting and repairs, £54 6s; boat repairs, £9 10s; insurances, £6 1s 9d; bank fees, 12s; printing and stationery, 17s 6d; petty expenses, £2 10s 9d; repairs and general expenses, £10 2s 2d; materials, £6 18s 4d; Sports Ground Committee, £948 2s 6d; total, £1533 9s 2d.—Balance, £1446 7s 11d.

The chairman pointed out that while the statement of receipts and expenditure showed that £25 had been received from the Sports Ground Committee, the balance of £50 had been received since the end of the financial year and £20 had also been received by way of interest, so that the income had been slightly higher than the expenditure.

The balance-sheet was approved.

MISCELLANEOUS.

New Plymouth Sash and Door Factory and Timber Company forwarded cheque for £43 1s 6d, being royalty on pinus logs to September 30.

The Borough Council notified that in arranging the programme of band recitals for the ensuing season the council had authorised the board to take up a collection in aid of its funds at the recital be given in the park on Sunday, November 9.

It was decided to renew the lease of portion of the grounds used by the Park Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club for a further twelve months on the same conditions as previously. The position will be reviewed.

Mr. A. L. Moore, director, wrote asking for permission for the boys attending the Technical College to practice swimming during the luncheon hours on the same conditions as previously.—Granted.

Mr. E. G. Betts, secretary of the Te-Ngutu-o-te-Manu Domain Board, wrote acknowledging the board's donation of a Muscovy drake.

Accounts amounting to about £25 were passed for payment.

HAWERA & NORMANBY STAR, NOVEMBER 8, 1924 PLANTING IN THE PARK

Much good work has been done during the planting season at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, and amongst other improvements effected was the planting of an avenue of kauri, rimu and totara. A large number of pine trees that were considered unnecessary have been cut out and native trees planted in their place. Mr. Thomas Horton, the well-known nurseryman, is now in charge, and the park should benefit by his wide experience.

TH, NOVEMBER 19, 1924

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING
The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey (chairman)

presiding. There were also present:—Messrs. F. E. Wilson, R. C. Hughes, C. E. Bellringer, J. McLeod, F. Amooe, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent).

The superintendent reported that tree-felling authorised by the board had been completed. Seven extra logs were taken delivery of by the Sash and Door Company. These he estimated would produce 2300 superficial feet of timber, making a total of over 30,000 feet taken by the company from trees recently felled. All the branches and other timber unsuitable for milling purposes had been cut into firewood and a large proportion sold. He expected no difficulty in disposing of the balance. All that area where tree-felling had been done had been thoroughly cleaned up, and the greater part of it planted in native trees suitable for position. The season was too far advanced to permit of the whole area being planted now, but he proposed preparing for the early planting of this portion next autumn. A great deal of work had necessary on the sports ground area in preparation for cricket. The rose-bed and all cultivated areas had been kept in a fair state of cultivation, paths kept in order, and steps and bridges repaired where necessary, and general work of maintenance done. Quite a number of overseas visitors had visited the park recently, and without exception had expressed their admiration of its beauties and attractiveness.

The secretary reported that an order had been placed for a new boat, which it was expected would be delivered within three weeks.

TDN, DECEMBER 17, 1924

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at New Plymouth last night. Present: Messrs. H. Dempsey (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, W. C. Weston, A. T. Moore, and W. F. Short.

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported that during the month the staff had been employed mostly at general work of maintenance, etc. He had been unable to fell the two extra trees and now proposed to leave them until after the holidays, as the staff would be fully employed maintaining the park in a creditable condition for the holiday season, when, no doubt, a greatly increased number of visitors would be there. He asked authority to put an extra man on for a few days to assist with mowing the grass areas, which were now ready to be cut. On the sports area the grass on all the terraces had been cut and cleared up, and the playing ground kept cut and rolled. As far as he knew everything necessary there had been done to the satisfaction of the Sports Committee. The Vogeltown entrance required putting in order, added the report, and certain improvements effected at the Carrington Road entrance. The work should be put in hand as soon as possible to prevent

straying stock from entering. Mr. Huggett had promised to have the work of removing firewood, felling trees, etc. completed by January 1. The new boat had arrived in good order and condition and appeared to be in every way satisfactory. He had shot the shag which was playing such havoc amongst the fish in the large lake. He expressed thanks to an anonymous donor of about £2 worth of flowering plants.

The report was adopted, and the superintendent was given authority to employ the extra man as required.

It was decided to endeavour to procure a pair of swans for the park. It was also resolved to thank the donor mentioned, in the superintendent's report.

On behalf of the fernery committee Mr. Bellringer reported that they had visited the site and done some preliminary work. It was not proposed to do anything further until after the holidays. The ferns already planted were making good progress.

SPORTSGROUND MAINTENANCE.

Mr. L. Little, secretary of the sportsground Committee, notified that the time had arrived when a permanent caretaker should be appointed for the sportsground, and he was instructed to ask if the board had any objection to the present arrangement terminating at the end of December, so as to enable the committee to make the appointment as suggested. He pointed out that the committee wished the board to understand that they were more than satisfied with the attention that had been given to the sportsground by the board's staff during the time the present arrangements had been in operation, and they fully appreciated the fact that it enabled them to keep the ground in good order at a minimum cost at a time when their funds were required for further improvements to the ground. It was, however, felt that the termination of the arrangement would be in the interests of the board, and would not only relieve them of a responsibility but would also be a saving of labour, as the time spent on the sportsground by the board's staff had been considerable.

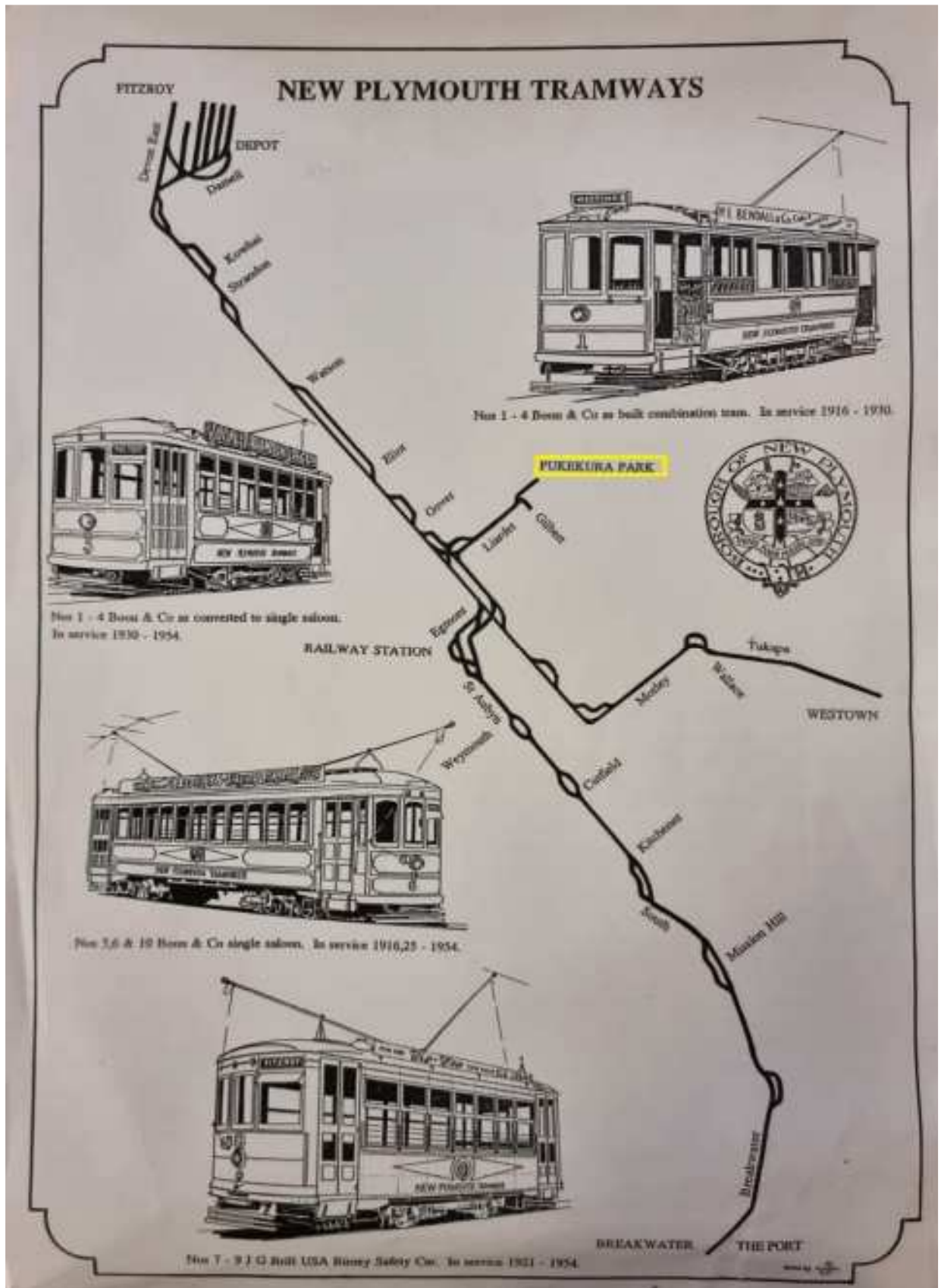
Members agreed to the suggestion, considering that though the arrangement had worked satisfactorily, the time had arrived when the Sportsground Committee should employ a permanent man.

GENERAL

It was resolved to approach the Sportsground Committee with a view to having the Liardet Street entrance tar-sealed.

The chairman was authorised to order any gravel required to maintain the paths.

Accounts amounting to £16 7s 7d were passed for payment.



New Plymouth Tram Routes – showing the line going to the Pukekura Park main gates on Fillis Street, also, the Gilbert Street entrance. Poster by David Jones. (Puke Ariki ARC2005-393)

1925

It was noted in March, that boat takings were down due to the polio epidemic, an epidemic which killed 175 people in New Zealand. This epidemic triggered a lockdown and many schools closed and students had to study at home. In those days work was sent to them by post, not online as the case with the current pandemic.

An open-air boxing tournament organised by the Taranaki Boxing Association was held in Pukekura Park in February of 1925, the first of its type in Taranaki. The main event was a heavyweight title fight between George Modrich, of Auckland and Eddie Parker, of Hastings, Parker winning after Modrich's corner threw in the towel at the end of the seventh round. There were several other fights on the undercard and a number of local boxers demonstrated their skill. The crowd of 1500 were well entertained under the lights of the sportsground.

Thomas Kingwell Skinner died in August 1925, he had been a board member from 1881 to 1901. From the parks inception in 1875 Skinner had selflessly given his time and skill as a surveyor to layout many of the paths in the park as well as working on the sportsground development and Manhattan Island.

A committee was set up to look at the possibility of erecting a new house in the park for the superintendent. The feeling was that if he lived in the park, it would deter vandalism. Plans were drawn up and estimates were done by T. H. Bates, so that the board could look at ways and means of financing it. Unfortunately, they could not come up with the means of paying for it and the house did not get built until 1931. There was an old curator's cottage on Victoria Road paid for by the Government when the land was first given to the board in the 1870s, presumably its condition was not suitable for habitation. From 1926 the cottage was used by the scouts until it was pulled down in 1930.

At the July board meeting Thomas Horton told the committee that he had planted 800 native trees of different varieties that he had grown in his own garden saving the board a lot of money. Having only been in New Plymouth one year this action shows how dedicated he was to his job. He also initiated the labelling of trees for educational purposes and was a believer that if you could get people interested in the park, they would be more likely to look after it. To this end he reached out to schools offering to take groups round and teach them about the plants in the park.

A Pair of kiwis were donated and released on Manhattan Island. How they fared is a mystery as the birds were left to their own devices.

A monster fireworks display was held in the sportsground on November 5, which attracted a large crowd. A competition was run for the best guy. At the end of the display a huge bonfire was lit at the southern end of the ground and all the guys were burnt. The success of the bonfire was guaranteed as it was fuelled by a case of kerosene donated by A. S. Patterson and Co. and old motor oil donated by Criterion Motors Ltd. The night netted a profit of about £100.

The control of the sportsground was handed back to the board after an agreement was made whereby the Sportsground Committee would pay the board £175 per annum to look after the grounds. This payment was for maintenance only and did not include development of new terraces etc. Some new terraces were constructed at the sportsground during the year; however, the location and extent of work is not clear.

There was a renewed push to build a fernery and the fernery sub-committee submitted a new plan which provided for three large "dug-outs" each 60ft by 30ft. The estimated cost of the work was £450 plus cost of glass for the roof estimated at from £100 to £150. It was proposed that the board provide £300 towards the cost, the sub-committee undertaking to raise the balance. This was given the go-ahead in December.

On September 19, The *Taranaki Herald* printed an article, *Ramble Through the Park*, which describes what a person sees while walking through the park with a child. The narration of the walk, along with a botanical survey as part of the same article gives a very good description of the park as it was in 1925. With a bit of thought the same walk could be taken today and maybe some of the trees mentioned could be spotted.

Plant Donations Included:

John Wheeler, rare ferns; Mr. Ludlow, of Vogeltown, 50 trees; Anderson & Sons, of Napier, boxes of annuals; Maxwell's, *Asplenium tenibrosus sanderii*, *Pteris comans* (very rare), *Colensoa sinclairii* and *Melicope ternata* var. *mantellii* (Chatham Islands); Mr Rawson, parcel of young nikau's; central school, *Marattia Fraxinus*; Wagn, *Pinus torreyana*.



Main Lake – Pukekura Park. *Auckland Weekly News*, September 17, 1925

ORIGINAL VERSE

PUKEKURA PARK.

On the shores of Taranaki, where weeping willows grow,
O'er whose glistening sands, like silver bands, the rippling waters flow;
With croquet, tennis, golf, and bowls, our life's go full and free,
'Tis there you'll find by groves enshrined, New Plymouth by the sea.
Behold majestic Egmont, towering upward to the sky,
With the ranges nestling at its base, as it rears its head on high;
From its rugged sides glide crystal streams, or dance in mirthful glee.
As they bound along their downward course, to New Plymouth by the sea.
New Plymouth's homes are beautiful, well worthy of remark,
It's well-kept gardens much admired, but have you seen the Park?
Or have you seen the glow-worm cave, the fern-fringed glassy lake?
Where the stately swans sail slowly by, their homeward way to take.
'Twould take an abler pen than mine its beauties to extol,
So come along and bring your friends, and you may see them all;
The rosebed and the lily pond, the irises and ferns,
While Johnny, labouring at his oars, a few more shillings earns.
Majestic pines their image throw, reflected the depths below,
Proud bridges span the tranquil stream, amidst the ferns rare lilies gleam;
And joyous laughter fills the air, from gallant, youths and maidens fair,
Who, as they urge the boats along, beguile the time with jest and song.
Oh! Pukekura! sweet retreat, where youths and maidens love, to meet,
Where, hand in hand, with many a sigh, they vow for love they'd gladly die,
The silvery moon looks down to bless, and wish them joy and happiness.
The little birds come out and peep, then shut their eyes and go to sleep.
And visitors from every clime all make the same remark,
That Nature's seen in all her charms in Pukekura Park.
Oh Pukekura! dear to me, sweet land of lake and bush,
If you only knew how you're admired, I'm sure 'twould make you blush.

—Anon.

TH, JANUARY 21, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, C. E. Bellringer, W. C. Weston, F. Amoore, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, and the secretary (Mr. P. E. Stainton).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. T. Horton (superintendent) reported that the staff had been fully employed at general maintenance work, including hoeing around young and newly planted trees, necessary cultivation, cleaning paths, grubbing gorse, broom and blackberry, and burning off rubbish, etc. A large portion of the grass area had been mown and cleaned up, and particular attention given to places where there was danger of fire. The work of clearing away underscrub and trees on the park extension site which was undertaken by Mr. Huggett was not yet completed, but it was hoped to have it finished at an early date. During the Christmas season the boat returns were very poor on account of the bad weather experienced at that time, but since fine and more settled weather had obtained the receipts had been very good, and probably constituted a record.

During the holidays there had been an increasing number of visitors to the park, and without exception all had been loud in their appreciation of its beauties. The park was in fair order for this time of year.

Mr. Horton reported that after considerable correspondence he had located where swans were bred and from whom they may be obtained. He hoped soon to have quotations.

GENERAL.

The New Plymouth High School Old Boys' Association wrote that it was proposed to conclude its effort on behalf of the gymnasium fund with a three-night season and one day in Pukekura Park and the sports ground respectively. The dates proposed were March 12, 13, and 14 next. The association had already approached the sportsground committee and had received its consent subject to dates and the consent of the Park Board. The request was acceded to.

The works committee was authorised to bring down a report with reference to the proposal to erect a superintendent's residence in the park and submit it to the next meeting.

A discussion arose with reference to the question of the sanitary arrangements at the park, and Mr. Amoore was authorised to confer with Mr. Day, borough inspector, with a view to some improvement being effected.

The chairman and Mr. Amoore were appointed a committee to confer with Mrs. Webb to see if arrangements can be made to provide an extended service at the tea kiosk.

In reply to a question the superintendent reported that he had had no occasion to complain of cyclists riding through the park during the month. Other members said the nuisance had not been, so

pronounced lately, but there were still a few offenders.

The chairman reported that Mr. Short had very kindly undertaken to renovate the in-memoriam tablet erected in the park.

The chairman also reported that Mr. V. Griffiths had prepared sketch plans of a proposed rustic entrance to the park from Vogeltown. Both plans were very attractive, and it was thought would meet with general approval.

The sports ground committee forwarded a cheque for £37 10s being balance due to the board under the agreement with respect to the lease of the sportsground.

A cheque for £8 was also received from the Sash and Door Company, being royalty on pinus insignis logs cut from the park.

It was decided on the motion of Mr. Hughes that in future when the board authorises the cutting down of trees the fact be recorded in the minutes together with the number of trees and their location.

NZ TRUTH, FEBRUARY 2, 1925

BOXING MATCH

The Taranaki Association will stage a fight in the open air, at Pukekura Park, next Wednesday evening. When the principals will be Eddie Parker and George Modrich. Parker will be giving away a bit of weight, but this should not stop him from winning, for his pace should beat Modrich.

TDN, FEBRUARY 13, 1925

**HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE
PARKER DEFEATS MODRICH
OPEN-AIR TOURNAMENT.**

By disposing of George Modrich, of Auckland, Eddie Parker, of Hastings, annexed the New Zealand professional heavyweight boxing championship at an open-air tournament conducted by the Taranaki Boxing Association at the Sportsground, New Plymouth, last night. Modrich's seconds threw in the towel in the seventh round after Parker had twice repeated his previous round performances of sending his opponent to the mat.

About 1500 people witnessed the contest, and several amateur bouts, which made up an interesting programme. The large attendance testified to the popularity of the innovation in conducting a tournament, out of doors, and the arrangements made by the secretary (Mr. E. J. Carr) and the officials of the association for the comfort of patrons and competitors provided an interesting evening's sport. The association wishes to thank Mr. Booth, the groundsman, for his assistance in arranging seating, etc.

TH, FEBRUARY 25, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present Messrs. H. Dempsey (in the chair), R. C. Hughes, C. E. Bellringer, F. Amoore, J. McLeod, W. F.

Short, A. T. Moore and P. E. Stainton (secretary). Mr. T. Horton (superintendent) was also present.

An apology was received from Mr. W. C. Weston.

The chairman reported that Mr. Amoore had made an inspection of the sanitary arrangements at the park and that under his instructions certain work had been carried out which had made the position quite satisfactory.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Amoore,

The chairman reported that Mr. Bates, hon. architect to the board, had prepared plans and approximate estimates of the cost of the proposed superintendent's residence and it was now for the board to go into ways and means of financing the proposal. The dwelling could not be erected out of the general funds and apparently the board would be unable to secure money from a building society in the ordinary way because the land could not be pledged by the board as security.

It was suggested that probably a personal guarantee from the members of the board would be accepted by way of security.

The chairman was authorised to make inquiries on behalf of the board.

Mr. Horton (superintendent) reported that gorse, fennel and other noxious weeds and growth had been removed from the roadside boundary of the park. Under the direction of Mr. Amoore improvements had been effected to the drainage system. A plan with his scheme of suggested improvements in the vicinity of the sportsground pavilion had been handed to the chairman for consideration.

He regretted to have to report that several young trees were damaged, a few newly planted and valuable trees pulled up and destroyed and two trees ten to fifteen feet high deliberately cut off about eighteen inches from the ground. He had made every effort to find the culprit, but had not yet been successful. He had, however, found the saw which he thought was the tool used by the culprit.

Bicycle riding in the prohibited area was not very much indulged in now and there were only two or three regular passers through who still defied the board's regulations in regard to this matter. These had received their final warning.

During the month in addition to the special work referred to general work, such as the grubbing of gorse broom and blackberry, mowing grass, hoeing weeds, keeping paths clear and fallen branches, leaves etc., had been attended to, the park's general good order having been well maintained.

Visitors recently had included representatives of the Botanical Gardens from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane and the chairman of city reserves, Auckland. Without exception all had been charmed with the park and its environments.

The plan of proposed improvements at the sportsground submitted by Mr.

Horton will be forwarded to the Sports Ground Committee.

Mr. Horton said, he was in receipt of a letter from Mr. E. A. Nutt, Martinborough, promising to do his utmost to secure white swans for the park and also some pukekos if desired. The matter was left in the hands of the superintendent to arrange.

Disappointment was expressed that something definite had not been done in connection with the fernery, as the summer was well advanced, and unless the work was undertaken immediately the season would be lost.

The sub-committee appointed to go into the question of management of the tea kiosk reported that as the result of their inquiries it was evident recent complaints had been very much exaggerated—in fact that they were not justified. The whole question had, however, been discussed with Mrs. Webb, who had a lease of the tea kiosk, and an agreement had been arrived at for the future control of the kiosk.

TH, MARCH 24, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evenings, Mr. H. Dempsey (chairman) presiding.

There were also present Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, R. C. Hughes, F. Amooore, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, J. McLeod, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent). An apology was received from Mr. W. C. Weston.

The chairman reported with reference to the proposal to erect a Superintendent's residence in the park, that Mr. Hughes and himself had looked into the position with regard to finance, and that the board had no power to pledge any of the original property as security for a loan. Under the circumstances it was decided that the matter be allowed to stand over for the time being.

The superintendent reported on general work that had been carried out at the park during the month. The Borough Council had practically completed the filling in of the gully in Gilbert Street. Here a scheme of planting and improvement would require to be undertaken, and by permission of the chairman a scheme for the joint beautification of not only the park but the adjoining property of Mr. Spence was being worked out. The results should be satisfactory, as it would mean that the whole area would be greatly improved, the proposed work would entail an expenditure of more than £5, and this he asked the board to authorise.

The prevailing epidemic had seriously interfered with the boat returns which were now below those for corresponding period of last year. The park continued to be visited by a great many tourists, and that day included a party of Auckland's leading citizens who were without exception charmed with the beauty of the park.

Mr. G. M. Spence waited on the board with reference to proposed improvements at Gilbert Street.

It was decided to meet on the ground and decide what should be done to improve the filling at Gilbert Street and also to meet the Jockey Club with a view to arranging for the planting of the gully near the racecourse.

It was decided on the motion of Mr. Hughes, to obtain a report from the superintendent as to what he considers the best method of improving the Fillis Street glen.

A letter was received from the Stratford Borough Council offering to donate a number of drakes to the park. It was decided to thank the Stratford council for its offer and to ask for further particulars as to the variety of the birds.

The chairman submitted sketch plans of proposed entrance to the park from Vogeltown. These had been prepared by Mr. V. Griffiths, and both were of semi-rustic design. A plan was approved, and it was decided to write thanking Mr. Griffiths for his kindly assistance in the matter.

The question of arranging to have the work carried out was left in the hands of the chairman.

Mr. McLeod explained that the Sports Ground Committee had discussed proposals for effecting improvements in the vicinity of the pavilion at the sports ground, and that a sub-committee had been appointed to go into the matter.

Permission was granted to Mr. F. H. Booth, caretaker of the sports ground, to erect a temporary stall for the sale of soft drinks, etc., at the sports ground.

TH, APRIL 22, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, W. C. Weston, F. E. Wilson, F. Amooore, A. T. Moore, R. C. Hughes, and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

An apology was received from Mr. C. E. Bellringer.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, reported that in addition to the usual work of cleaning up, burning refuse, and general maintenance, certain special work had been done. The filling in by the council of the gully on the boundary of the park and Mr. Spencer's property had been completed. He recommended that Ake Ake be used for a hedge along Gilbert Street boundary and that native shrubs only be used for planting on the slopes of this portion of the park. The erection of the rustic pergola entrance at the Vogeltown end of the park had been completed. The south-western side of the main lake had been dragged as far as could be reached from the banks and debris and decayed vegetation removed. The portion of the park on the left-hand side of the racecourse walk and known as the swamp had been thoroughly cleaned up by mowing the raupo and other heavy swamp growth and burning it off while the dry weather experienced recently permitted. The Park extension area on the eastern side of the Sports Ground was getting very badly overgrown with weeds and other

rubbish, and to prevent these seeding on the land should be cut down and burned off at once. He estimated that it would take two men about three weeks to accomplish this and thoroughly cut out the blackberries and put the whole section in order. When this was done, the superintendent said, he would be better able to report as to the laying out, planting or otherwise of this portion of the park.

The matter of removing certain trees which are unsightly and a menace was referred to the chairman with power to act.

It was decided to request Mr. Huggett to clean up the section fronting Fillis Street as promised.

It was decided to write Lester Bros., proprietors of Ngaere Gardens, to the effect that the board could not see its way to purchase the motor launch.

BOYS' MISDEMEANOURS.

The superintendent further reported that he had personally caught a youth committing an act of vandalism on Sunday week by deliberately breaking the head of a valuable Meryta Sinclairii and another lad was guilty of gross misconduct to one of the staff. He had written to the parents reporting the matter and also reported to the chairman. In spite of these two cases he was pleased to notice a great improvement in the conduct of youths who generally visit the park, and he was hopeful that acts of vandalism and bad conduct would soon be few and far between.

In reply to a question Mr. Horton said that, in writing to the parents of the boy whom he caught damaging a tree he had demanded an apology and stated that they would be held responsible for the cost of replacing the tree. He had not, however, received any reply.

The secretary was instructed to communicate with the parents and failing a satisfactory reply being received within seven days proceedings will be taken.

THE PROPOSED FERNERY.

The Mayor asked what was the position with regard to the fernery and expressed the opinion that it was time something definite was done with regard to the matter. The board had asked for the co-operation of a number of interested citizens and they had willingly offered their assistance and advice and were naturally very disappointed that the whole question was apparently being allowed to drift.

The chairman said he understood the cost of the proposed fernery was beyond the means of the board. The cost of glass alone was over £150.

Mr. Weston said he felt the board could not afford to spend £500 on a fernery at the present time. Funds were very limited and there was a great deal of other work to be done in the park. He questioned whether it was really worth while, with so much other work to be done.

Mr. Amooore said he had been very much in favour of the scheme at the outset, but now he too questioned whether it was worth while. He was very disappointed

with, the apparent apathy of the fernery committee.

Eventually notice of motion was given that the whole question be discussed at the next meeting of the board.

TH, MAY 20, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD AGM

The annual meeting of Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. W. C. Weston, F. Amoore, G. M. Spence, A. T. Moore, J. McLeod, and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

Apologies were received from Messrs. C. E. Bellringer and W. F. Short.

The chairman extended a cordial welcome to Mr. Spence, who took his seat on the board for the first time as one of the representatives of the Borough Council.

Mr. Spence, in acknowledging the compliment, said he was glad to be associated with the board and expressed the hope that he would be able to render some assistance in connection with the management and control of such a beautiful park.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, reported that during the month the large puriri trees near the band rotunda had been overhauled and were now in good condition except for the moss which was growing on them. This he proposed to destroy by one or two winter dressings with emulsified spraying oil. Three extra seats had been erected in positions where it was considered they were required. The memorial stone to deceased benefactors had been cleaned by Mr. Short and the names thereon had been rewritten. The Ake Ake hedge authorised had been planted in Gilbert Street and native trees required for planting the slopes on the new filling had been planted, 100 trees being used. This corner should ultimately become one of the beauty spots of the park.

The pohutukawa trees for planting on the western side of the park had been secured and were heeled in ready for planting when the ground was prepared. A great deal of decayed vegetable matter and rubbish had been removed from the large lake. As authorised, screened metal had been secured for patching up paths where required. Most of the other work authorised by the board had been put in hand, including that of cleaning up the banks near the racecourse preparatory to planting and the removal of several large pines. This work was being done under his supervision, but the cost would be defrayed by the Jockey Club as arranged. Attention was drawn to that portion of the park on the right-hand side of the John Street walk which is at present in grass and partly infested with blackberry. He suggested that this should be planted with native trees during the present planting season. Mr. Horton, in conclusion, referred to the decision of the board to have certain pine trees trimmed up and dead and dangerous branches removed, and added that this work should be done at once. Authority was asked to employ a suitable man to do the work.

The work suggested at John Street entrance was authorised and the superintendent was also authorised to employ a man to attend to necessary cleaning up of pine trees.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Short for work done to the memorial stone as referred to by the superintendent.

The Borough Council wrote that usual subsidy of \$250 had been voted to the board.

The Borough Council also notified that Messrs. F. Amoore, A. T. Moore and G. M. Spence had been appointed its representatives on the board.

A letter was received from the parent of a boy who it had been reported had damaged a tree in the park. The damage, it was stated, was quite accidental and not willful as had been suggested. The incident was regretted and willingness was expressed to pay for the damage. Under the circumstances no further action will be taken by the board.

A letter was received from Mr. B. Murrell, a tourist from Australia, expressing his keen appreciation of the beauties of the park and the taste and enterprise of its founders and those who are carrying on the work. The full text of the letter has already been published in those columns.

The superintendent recommended that name plates be provided for attaching to the more valuable and rare trees in the park as a guide to visitors. The suggestion was considered a good one and was referred to the chairman and superintendent.

The matter of painting the band rotunda and other buildings was referred to a sub-committee, consisting the chairman and Mr. Amoore.

The question of obtaining a number of signboards directing visitors to the park was left in the hands of the chairman and Mr. Amoore.

Appreciative reference was made by the chairman to the valued services rendered gratuitously to the board by Mr. P. E. Stainton as secretary, and a vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

TH, JUNE 17, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday night, Mr. H. Dempsey (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. F. Amoore, W. F. Short, J. McLeod and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

Apologies were received from Messrs. W. C. Weston, A. T. Moore, C. E. Bellringer and G. M. Spence.

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported that during the month a man had been engaged to trim the dangerous branches off the pine trees adjacent to the principal paths, but after about eight days work he had been taken ill and the work at present was held up. He was hopeful of having it completed at an early date. Most of the seats about the park had received two coats of green paint, and the remainder would be finished in a few days. At the Carrington Road entrance repairs had been effected

to the wings at the gateway. Owing to the newly-planted native hedge in Gilbert Street being broken and otherwise damaged he had found it necessary to protect the most exposed portion by the erection of a short barbed-wire fence. On wet days the boats were being overhauled and painted inside and out. The improvement of the slopes near the racecourse was being carried out under his supervision and he hoped to have the planting of that area completed next month. Several large King ferns from the grounds of the Infant School had been received from the school committee and they had been planted in suitable positions. Mr. J. Wheeler, Vogelstown, had also donated some rare ferns. He had also to report the gift, of "totara" labels sufficient for the park's requirements for the next three years from a friend who wished to remain anonymous. He very much appreciated the gift, as it would enable him to start with the naming of all the principal trees in the park, a work he was anxious to do. The recent storm had brought down a great many branches and much rubbish had been deposited on all the paths, but no serious damage had been done.

The thanks of the board were tendered to the donors of ferns mentioned in the report and it was also decided to ask the superintendent to tender the Board's thanks to the anonymous donor of the labels.

Thanks were also expressed to Messrs. Duff and Wynyard for a donation of £2 2s.

It was decided to call applications for the lease of the tea-kiosk, which is now available.

TH, JULY 22, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey, chairman, presiding. There were also present Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, F. Amoore, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton, secretary. Apologies were received from Messrs. R. C. Hughes and J. McLeod.

The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that the work of trimming dangerous branches off the large pines would be completed in a few days. He suggested that a large pine on the Carrington Road walk should be cut down. It was partly dead now, and if left would be a menace to the safety of pedestrians. The boats had been repaired and had been given three coats of paint inside and out. All the pines on the racecourse boundary with one exception had been felled and cleaned up. The sloping bank near the racecourse had been put in good order, and about 200 trees planted. When grown this should be one of the beauty spots of the park, some of the trees planted there being very rare indeed. The vacant piece of land on the south side of John Street walk had been prepared and planted. Along the western side of the park the land had been dug and prepared where necessary and pohutukawas and karaka's planted. This would eventually make a

permanent and effective shelter on the whole of the western side. A good many of the labels on which the names of the trees and plants have been painted were ready to attach to the trees, and he hoped to get some of these in position soon. He required several hundred totara posts to fix the labels to, and Messrs. Boon Bros had generously offered to donate these.

The superintendent submitted specimens of the name-plates which give the botanical names and the Maori names of the trees. The board expressed their approval of the plates and were of the opinion that when these were attached it would add to the interest of visitors to the park.

In reply to a question, Mr. Horton said that altogether there were about 1500 trees that would require labelling. He intimated that, with the consent of the board, he proposed to divide the park into sections for the purpose of classifying the different trees, and that in conjunction with his work a register would be kept so that the board would know exactly what trees there were and their ages.

The board expressed its approval of the suggested scheme.

A hearty vote of thanks was extended to Messrs. Boon Bros. for their donation of stakes for name-plates of trees.

The chairman was authorised to secure sufficient gravel to spread on the John Street walk.

It was decided to offer to the Taranaki Jockey Club the flagpole which has been in the sportsground for some time past.

During a general discussion Mr. Horton intimated that he had planted in the park this season about 800 native trees of different varieties that he had grown in his own garden. These were all doing well, and had of course, meant a big saving to the board, as otherwise it would have been necessary to purchase trees.

Nine applications were received for the lease of the tea kiosk, and these were referred to a committee consisting of the chairman, Mr. McLeod, and the secretary to deal with.

The chairman reported that permission had been given to Mr. Horton to attend the Hawera show and supervise a combined forestry exhibit made by the Taranaki District Council, New Zealand Nurserymen's Association. A letter was received from the association expressing its appreciation of the board's action, and asking it would prefer a cash donation of £10 or a donation of trees to the value of £15. The matter was referred to a committee.

TH, AUGUST 19, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs.

C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Amore, A. T. Moore, G. M. Spence, R. C. Hughes, J. McLeod, and P. E. Stainton (secretary). In the unavoidable absence of the chairman, Mr. H. Dempsey who forwarded an apology, Mr. Bellringer presided.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, reported that the chief work of the month had been the trimming up of all the large and dangerous pine trees adjacent to the principal walks of the park. On the race-course walk nineteen large trees were trimmed up and thirty-one on the Vogeltown track, while twenty-seven were dealt with on the Carrington Road and thirteen on Canon Hill. In addition to these, the large tree on the lawn near the rose bed was trimmed up and made safe, and so also were some of the more dangerous trees in the vicinity of the bridge and the electric service wires. A total of over ninety trees were done. The large and dangerous tree he had been authorised to fell had been felled, and the firewood sold. The pines on the racecourse boundary had now all been removed and the new planting completed. Tree planting had been done where necessary as far as time and trees would permit. A total of 760 trees and plants had been put in this season. They were now busy pruning trees where they required it, and cutting out dead and diseased wood and overhauling the principal parts of the park, so as to have everything as ready possible for the new season's growth. The general work of maintenance had been well attended to, and everything was in fair order.

Mr. Horton exhibited a plan of the boundaries of the park, prepared by the Lands Department. The desirability of having a topographical plan of the park prepared was urged by several members so that a copy could be placed at some convenient position in the park for the guidance of Visitors. In the meantime, however, the plan submitted would be of great service.

Several members referred to the excellent work being done at the park, which is now in splendid order.

RAISING FUNDS

The finance committee recommended that the board purchase a fireworks set for the purpose of a display in the park on Boxing Night. The committee also proposed that the sports ground committee be asked to organise a garden fete in the grounds in aid of the board's funds in January or February next, and that an invitation be extended to all musical organisations, local concert parties, the two bands, and the Savage Club to each provide one open air entertainment during the summer months in aid of the board's funds.

Mr. Amore, it was reported, had undertaken to go into the question of the possibility of providing a suitable raft or floating device, for concert stage purposes, enabling performers to give their entertainment on the lake. The report was adopted, and in the meantime the same committee will continue to act.

THE TEA KIOSK

The committee appointed to consider applications for the lease of the tea kiosk reported that Mrs. Ainsworth, of New Plymouth, had been the successful applicant.

The committee had inspected the tea rooms and recommended that an electric stove be installed to enable a certain

amount of rush cooking to be done on the premises, and also quicker service in tea making. The only heating available at present was that provided at the large boilers. The committee also recommended that the electric light be installed. At present there is no lighting. The electric wires were already available for light, and Mr. Horton had installed power wires at the office, so the cost of connecting would be negligible. The building inside and under the verandah badly need painting. There were practically no tables, chairs or material of any kind available, and the lessee would be called upon to find everything. The committee considered that the board should provide at least the chairs and tables as part of its own plant. The curator would arrange to erect a few rustic seats and tables as time permitted. The report was approved and the committee was authorised to act in the matter.

The desirability of erecting immediately funds are available a new tea kiosk on a more favourable site than that occupied by the present kiosk was stressed, and it was understood the whole question will be gone into later.

GENERAL.

Mr. McLeod reported that the fernery committee was having a new plan prepared, and that this would be submitted for consideration at a future meeting.

The secretary reported that Mr. F. S. Hodson had very kindly offered to take photographs of views of the park and supply the board with copies at cost price so that sets may be on sale at the park. It was pointed out that at the present time there was no provision whereby visitors to the park could obtain views. The offer was accepted with thanks, and Messrs. Spence and Stainton were appointed a sub-committee to act in the matter.

The Taranaki Jockey Club wrote thanking the board for its gift of a flagpole.

Mr. Amore referred to the question of signs directing visitors to the park, as discussed at a recent meeting of the board, and he generously undertook to provide the posts and board, and to have them erected, the park board to defray the cost of the sign writing.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Amore for his offer, a specimen signboard submitted meeting with unanimous approval.

TH, AUGUST 29, 1925

OBITUARY

THOMAS KINGWELL SKINNER.

We regret, to have to record the death, which occurred this morning, of Mr. Thomas Kingwell Skinner, at the age of 76 years. Mr. Skinner was born in New Plymouth, and was the eldest son of the late Mr. T. K. Skinner, who came out from Modbury, Devonshire, by the ship Oriental, arriving here on November 18, 1841, with his wife, who was a Miss Veale, daughter of Mr. John Veale, of Clawton, Devonshire. Educated in New Plymouth, Mr. Skinner, like his brothers, the late Mr. John Skinner and Mr. W. H.

Skinner, who is now visiting England, took up the profession of surveying and civil engineering. Entering the service of the Provincial Government, he was employed in connection with the purchase from the Maoris of the Moa, Huiroa, and other blocks of land, and while engaged in their survey he had often to endure considerable hardship. Later he entered into partnership with Mr. Thomas Gore Sole, the firm becoming and remaining for many years borough engineers of New Plymouth, and having much to do with the original municipal water supply and other important municipal works. Subsequently he was in private practice on his own account.

Some years ago Mr. Skinner sustained a severe stroke, which incapacitated him for a long time, but he made a good recovery and latterly has been able to get about, though he led rather retired life. He took a keen interest in public matters, and was among those who spent money and time in efforts to develop an oil industry. He never married. The funeral will take place at Te Henui Cemetery on Monday afternoon.

TH, SEPTEMBER 19, 1925
RAMBLE THROUGH THE PARK

Come on, Emily, we'll enter by this gate near the racecourse.

The top of the terrace shows a valley of varying shades of green. The afternoon sun glistens on the mamaku fronds, and the shades merge into one tone in the distance below. This wealth of greenery envelops one as the path leads gently downwards. On the right a valley rich in native foliage and a secluded lakelet among the greenery; on the left a hilly brow of bush with an enticing little path, which we will follow.

Tarata trees, chefflera, and mahoe crowd in on all sides, towered over by tall pinus insignis, Scotch fir and tuberculata. Along this carpet which the firs have shed, past the corner, the sheen of open water shows between the pines and tall mamaku. (No, Emily, we'll keep to the higher path.)

This leads up to more scattered vegetation, allowing space for pleasant swards of grass among the trees of rimu, kawakawa, koromiko, macrocarpa, matipo—what a sudden glimpse of yonder hill, crowned by a house!—and strawberry (banthenia), a white-flowered native of the Himalayas.

Listen (hush, child) to that tui in the kowhai tree. How he revels in the sunlight and pours out his song—Far-away cheering breaks in. If the applause is for the tui's song, he well merits it.

The notes of a bell-bird chime in. The whole bush is full of song. The staccato notes of the startled blackbird are offset by the sougling of the pines and the rustle of the breeze in the bush.

Past two towering rewarewa, poisonous rangiora, and tarata and broadleaf, the path leads downward into a cool fernery of ponga and asplenium, capensis, through which it zig-zags, in charming

fashion. (Don't trip over that fallen mamaku, child). It fell across path in a storm a decade ago, but undaunted has sent up from its trunk a spur of fronds.

The path becomes level; crosses a bridge near which a miniature waterfall is bursting to imitate Niagara, and leads out into a glade fringed with rata, English alder, kowhai and pittosporum crassifolium under whose imposing name is hidden a cunningness in propagation by its seeds adhering to the feathers of unsuspecting birds, who scatter them in flight.

The path broadens with the stream, and opens up vistas at every turn. The tone of green is broken by a subdued red and white. Ah, a neat little bridge!

But let us leave this 30ft. kauri near the path and climb the hill to the left, where the paths are few. Native trees and shrubs crowd in on every side, and the path appears to be seldom used. (Come back Emily). The view broadens as the hill is climbed. (You mustn't run ahead like that and surprise young couples child. It isn't fair) and a wealth of foliage is revealed from the top.

Along both sides of the valley the mass of green is relieved by taller rewarewa, mamaku fronds and towering pines. In the centre a stretch of calm water offsets the green and finally loses itself round a curve. We will follow it—Again that cheering breaks out. If it is for the view, it were well made.

Tread lightly past this offshoot of the historic cedars of Lebanon (cedrus Libane), the Indian cedars (cedrus Indica) and take the winding path which leads down from the spreading black gum of Australia to a cool walk besides a stream which feeds the lake. Another waterfall is chattering beside the footbridge, and the brook entices down to islands fringed with cladium and formed by the agency of man. Mamaku on the nearest of these has played a cunning part, for it has hidden the view till it bursts suddenly on the sight.

Hillsides covered in verdure, an open stretch of water, and a picturesque bridge whose subdued colours blend yet contrast with the prevailing green. Mamaku and pines alike grow upside down, mirrored in the lake, and ducks and a white swan swim over them. (There is some bread in the basket, Emily).

The walk round the western side of the lake leads to the "Poet's Bridge," where another prospect opens with pleasing suddenness. Having been tied in bounds by the bridge, the lake spreads itself to lap the pathways under the slopes; to lap the embankment where a band rotunda, monument and building have been erected; to lap with little effect the rowing boat which is riding on its surface; and to shake in threatening fashion the hills and trees mirrored in its depths.

Sustained cheering, very near this time, is heard. If it is in compliment to the aspect, it were indeed well planned.

The path entices toward a fringe of mamaku, refreshingly cool in the shade of the pines. Past it, to the left, is a grove inviting one to new vistas, which are cunningly concealed round a bend. Through the fringe is a placid lake whose water-lilies strive towards the air, and to the right a rotunda and a monument commemorative of the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign. On the hill above, the cannons of "Dicky" Barrett, though lacking their jovial master, are still on the lookout for Maori attacks.

Loud cheering breaks the silence. If the outburst is Taranaki's acknowledgement of Richard Barrett's work in the early days, it is singularly appropriate.

No, child, we'll go round to the left of the hill beside this lake of lilies and—A calm stretch of water, fringed with mamaku, where all Nature shows the effect of man's taming hand. A delightful, enchanting spot!

Follow to the left in the shade of the pines and the mamaku, catch the sun's sparkle on the water and on the fronds on its farther side, drink in the sublimity of the scene, and one has seen cultured Nature at her best.

At the farther end of the lake, between the sunlight and the shade, a brook babbles from the stretch of water and is soon lost in the under-growth and around playful little corners which entice one to follow the rill. But we are going round to the right, through this wide gate.

Great goodness! Terraces and terraces of bright colours, offset by darker hues! Men and women crowding the hills on three sides, excited at a Rugby struggle on the level sward. All is movement on the ground, and above, the dresses of the ladies contrasted with the attire of the men, form at once a spectacle no to be forgotten.

Deafening cheers break out. If they are for the glory of the sight, they are indeed well suited.

Come on, Emily, it's nearly time for tea.

A BOTANICAL SURVEY.

The park offers a very extensive field for the naturalist, and many fine and rare native trees

Are growing therein. Kauris grow rapidly. One fine specimen is 30ft. In height with a trunk five inches diameter at a distance of four feet from the ground. The tree is seventeen years old. Several good specimens of tanekaha are showing vigorous growth. This is the "celery topped pine" of Hooker. The three species of totara are growing rapidly, and there are groups of fine specimens ranging from five to thirty-five years old. Ages of the rimu trees of which there are several varieties, range from thirteen to thirty years. Miro, planted from ten to twenty-one years ago, are growing robustly and are graceful young forest trees. A charm of the park is the puriri trees, of rapid growth. The most magnificent specimens growing south of Kawhia are in Mr. Newton King's garden, adjoining the park.

The pinus insignis trees show the best and straightest growth in New Zealand. There are some splendid specimens of pinus torreyana, which yields good timber for furniture and general work. The tree is a native of Puget Sound. American redwood pines, which produce valuable timber, are showing good growth.

The six species of tree-ferns are most admired by visitors from overseas. Taranaki is the home of the magnificent mamaku, the king of tree-ferns. There are seven species of native orchids, which are of great interest in the flowering season.

The large island at the head of the upper lake was planted with twenty-seven species of native plants twenty-three years ago. With two exceptions they succeeded well, and are a good illustration of the comparative growth of native trees under favourable conditions. There are forty-four species of native ferns and twenty-eight native mosses in the park. Some of both orders are beautiful and rare forms.

The park also contains a fine series of specimens of kaikomako, kaikawaka, kaiwhiria, kakaramer, kakaha, karaka, karo, kumarahou, kowhai and kohekohe. Akerautangi, hohoeka, horopito, maire, mairehau, monoau and manuka grow luxuriantly. Paratawhiti (horse-shoe fern), patete, puahou, putaputa-weta, and puwhaureroa (the bird-catching tree) are well represented. Five species of rata—two timber trees and three climbers—flourish. The rangiora, rewarewa, and wharangi are very floriferous this season, and are very fine at present.

TH, SEPTEMBER 23, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Tuesday evening, those present, being Messrs. H. Dempsey (chairman), F. Amooore, W. C. Weston, G. M. Spence, J. M'Leod, R. C. Hughes and W. F. Short. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. C. E. Bellringer and P. E. Stainton.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The superintendent, (Mr. T. H. Horton) reported that among the special works of the past month had been the formation and metalling of a pathway to the trout hatchery and the construction of a small bridge over the stream leading to the hatchery. Fifty Olearia forsterii had been planted at the Vogelstown entrance and the pergola near the tea kiosk had been repaired and partly reconstructed. The old rubbish pit near the sportsground been cleared out, filled with good soil and planted with trees, while the old boat landing stage had been re-decked with new timber, as the old decking had decayed, making the structure unsafe.

It was found necessary to take up the drain leading from the memorial fountain, as it had become blocked by tree roots. It was cleaned out, re-laid and the joints properly cemented. The supply pipes to the fountain had developed

faults, and the services of a plumber had been required in order to effect repairs.

On account of the exceptionally wet month a great deal of rubbish, such as punge fronds, dead branches of trees, leaves and pine-needles, etc., had fallen and caused a great deal of extra work. Owing to their choked condition, several culverts and drains had had to be opened up and cleared out, but everything was now, considered to be in fair order. A great deal of pruning and cutting out of dead and useless wood had been done and trees suffering from the ravages of fungus and scale diseases had received attention.

He had to acknowledge the receipt of 50 trees from Mr. Ludlow, of Vogelstown, and also to report that the tablet on the memorial fountain, which was in a bad condition, had been attended to by Mr. Short. The thanks of the board were due to Messrs. May and Arrowsmith and Mr. Shepherd, of the Hygienic, for a constant supply of bread for the ducks in the park.

GENERAL.

Votes of thanks were passed to Messrs. May and Arrowsmith, Shepherd and Short for their assistance to the board.

Mr. J. M'Leod was appointed to take charge of the arrangements for a collection to be taken up on November 1, permission having been granted by the Borough Council for the Regimental Band to give a recital on that date in aid of the park funds.

Mr. Spence reported that arrangements had been made for the reproduction in postcard size of photographs of beauty in the park and the committee in charge of the matter was empowered to arrange for a supply of the postcards.

A committee consisting of Messrs. H. Dempsey, G. M. Spence, and F. Amooore was set up to go into the matter of erecting a house on the grounds for the superintendent.

It was reported that water was accumulating on the board's section in Gilbert Street and on the motion of Mr. Short it was resolved to write the Borough Council drawing attention to the matter.

During the month it was mentioned, the tea kiosk had been attended to and additional chairs and tables provided.

Pleasure was expressed at the work of Mr. Horton in maintaining and improving the park, it, being stated that visitors had commented very favourably on the manner in which it was kept.

Accounts amounting to, £58 14s 1d were passed for payment.

TH, OCTOBER 21, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, F. Amooore, A. T. Moore and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

Apologies were received from Messrs. C. E. Bellringer and W. Weston.

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton, F.R.H.S.) reported that during the past month, in spite of excessive rain, which had made a great deal of extra work, general maintenance had been carried out and the park was in good order. The rhododendron dell had been dug and put into first-class order; the azaleas had been dug around, and the small lake containing the new water lilies had been cleared out. A good deal of attention had been given to the gully on the left-hand side of the racecourse walk. At the head of this gully, which was practically a swamp, a drain had been dug and the water successfully removed, path formation done, and the whole area put into good order and condition. The borders on each side of the roadway from Gilbert Street entrance had been dug and the trees pruned where necessary. The thanks of the board were due to "Anonymous" for the gift of a pair of kiwis. The special attraction of the park just now was the Japanese cherries, rhododendrons and azaleas, all of which were in full bloom.

Mr. Amooore said he had never seen the park looking better than it did at the present time. The flowering shrubs made a beautiful picture.

The chairman said several visitors to the park had also expressed to him their admiration of its many beauties and the excellent manner in which it was kept.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the anonymous donor of the pair of kiwis.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Emeny wrote expressing a desire to present to the park two specially constructed iron seats to show their appreciation of the 'work of the board in the interests of the public. The park was undoubtedly a great asset to New Plymouth.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Emeny for their gift.

A very hearty vote of thanks was also accorded to an anonymous donor, "K.H.," for a donation of £10 to the park funds, and to Miss Marshall for a donation of 10s.

It was decided to procure a quantity of gravel for several of the paths in the park.

To encourage an interest in the park on the part of school children it was decided to offer headmasters of the schools' special facilities for taking parties of children from upper standards through the park and to place the services of the superintendent at the disposal of the parties to assist them in their studies.

Mr. A. M. MacDiarmid, secretary of the Caledonian Society, wrote applying for the use of the park on November 29 and for permission to take up a collection. - Granted.

A discussion ensued with reference to the necessity for dealing with storm water at the board's section at the corner of Gilbert and Liardet Streets. The position, it was stated, was very unsatisfactory and there was a risk of the water becoming stagnant and creating a menace to the health of the residents in the vicinity. The matter had been

brought before the notice of the Borough Council and it was understood that a decision had been arrived at whereby the water could be diverted and the nuisance thus removed.

It was suggested that a deputation wait on the Borough Council to urge that the matter be immediately attended to, and this course was agreed to.

The Taranaki Nurserymen's Council forwarded a cheque for £10, the amount agreed on for the superintendent's services as expert in charge of the forestry exhibit at the Hawera Winter Show.

It was decided to forward a letter of thanks to the Regimental Band for having provided a concert in the park and to explain that it was owing to a misunderstanding that no collection was taken up on behalf of the board. It was also decided to ask the band, under the circumstances, to give another concert on behalf of the park funds.

The question of procuring additional tables and chairs for use at the tea kiosk was left in the hands of the chairman.

With a view to arranging a series of evening concerts at the park during the summer months it was decided to invite representatives of the different musical institutions of the town to meet a committee of board on Wednesday evening next.

TH, NOVEMBER 6, 1925

GUY FAWKES

**FIREWORKS IN PUKEKURA PARK
A SPECTACULAR DISPLAY.**

Thousands of people were attracted to Pukekura Park on Thursday night to witness the great fireworks display given there by the Wainoni Fireworks Company in aid of the park funds, and crowds lined the streets in order to gain a view of the procession to the park. Led by the New Plymouth Citizens' Band and the two large engines of the New Plymouth Fire Brigade, the teams with their guys, marched to the Sportsground via Devon and Liardet Streets, accompanied by streams of people. There the guys were drawn up in front of the southern terrace, and the entries judged.

The first prize was awarded to Richard Doughty, who had in his team W. and J. Lowe, and the second to Herbert and Freda Hine. The third prize was won by Malcolm Clow and Malcolm Clark. There was a large number of entries and the guys gave evidence of having been carefully made. The winning team was easily the best, a collection of three very original guys being drawn by three young pierrots. Messrs. P. E. Stainton, R. Day, J. McLeod and N. Johnson were so pleased with the entries that they decided to award consolation prizes to the teams of the following: Monte Nagle, Douglas Featherstone, Howard Purser, Neil Wakelin, Allen Bell, C. Millman, H. Prior, H. Westbury, Keith Roebuck, Norman Smith, Gordon Mackay, P. Sisson, R. Shoemark, J. Walden, C. Fogden, M. Robb and C. Fox. The prize

winner should call at Mr. P. Stainton's office in Devon Street for their prizes.

All the terraces in the park were thronged with spectators long before the first part of the display was staged, and the children gave vent to their unrestrained excitement as the displays followed one another in quick succession. Gigantic Roman candles sent showers of sparks into the air, and these descended like golden rain. Rockets soared into the air repeatedly, to burst and release coloured stars or snaky coils of sparks. The children watched with breathless admiration the twirling Catherine-wheels, and the magnificent spectacle created by the golden waterfall of sparks won much applause from the crowd.

The grand finale of the fireworks display was the showing in blazing letters of the words "Good Night," and from the applause of the crowd it was evident that the display had made a profound impression on those present. Afterwards a huge bonfire was lighted at the southern end of the Sportsground and the guys were burnt, to the great joy of the juvenile portion of the gathering. Both old and young entered gaily into the spirit of the occasion, and the children kept up a ceaseless bombardment with small crackers. Occasionally the air reverberated with the boom of cannon crackers and miniature Bombs, and after a gay time the noise of exploding fireworks gradually diminished, the gathering terminating long after the display was finished.

The display was fired by Mr. D. G. Morgan, of New Plymouth, who, being an expert, undertook the duty in the unavoidable absence of the Wainoni Company's representative. The firing was very prompt, considering that none of the fireworks was set up till 7.30 p.m. on account of the threatening weather. The gate returns are estimated to be in the vicinity of £200.

The celebrations were carried out gaily in other parts of the town and many fires were observed to be alight at an early hour in the evening, and there is no doubt that this has been the most "glorious fifth" celebrated in New Plymouth for years.

TH, NOVEMBER 9, 1925

HORTON ON TREES

In a very interesting address at the weekly luncheon of the New Plymouth Rotary Club to-day Mr. T. Horton, curator of Pukekura Park, gave a review of the native flora of New Plymouth and surrounding districts, with particular reference to Pukekura Park.

The flora of this country, said Mr. Horton "is famous with botanists and horticulturalists all over the world." Continuing, he said that four-fifths of the flora this country was not known in other parts of the world. From these premises he made a very effective plea for the development of interest up to the point of enthusiasm for the protection and further improvement of the Park, which,

he said, was an asset of which the full value was not yet realised by the majority of the residents of this district. Visitors to the Park, whom he met almost daily, all expressed regret that they had heard so little about the place before.

Speaking generally of the flora of the district, Mr. Horton referred to the many hillsides and gullies which were covered with native flora, and which were picturesque with a growth of the native mamaku or black tree-fern. He paid a tribute to those settlers and property-holders who planted such places on their lands with these and other native trees, and further eulogised the forethought and wisdom of the pioneers in having what now constituted the Park set aside as a reserve and to those who had assisted in its development to its present state.

New Plymouth was particularly suitable for the cultivation and growth of the native flora of the country. Its climate was somewhat like that of Japan, and that was why its horticultural fame was known everywhere. It possessed that happy combination of elements which was conducive to the growth of native flora.

Mr. Horton also pointed out, what was perhaps not widely known, that in New Plymouth there was the largest and best native tree nursery in the Southern Hemisphere. In that area the owner possessed hundreds of thousands of native trees because they can be grown here better than in any other part of the country. Dealing with several of the more prominent specimens of native trees which do well here the speaker named the scarlet rata or pohutukawa, the karaka, the rimu, which was called by some the "Queen of the New Zealand Forests," the kowhai, and many varieties of the matipo. Many, of these varieties were to be seen in private gardens the district, but they were all to be seen growing under native conditions in the Park, and not many people realised what a rich botanical collection there was at the park. While this was large he admitted it was not complete, and he urged that the policy should be followed of developing the park until it possessed a complete collection of native flora. That part of the park which was in native bush should be preserved as such, as, while there may be other reserves of native bush about the country there were very few areas which were so favourably situated and so easily accessible as that park. He also advocated the naming of all trees and plants as a help in the education of every botanical student. Mr. Horton stressed the value of making a complete collection of New Zealand ferns. That which the park had at present was a good collection, but it was not yet complete.

Speaking briefly on the exotic trees in the district and in the park grounds Mr. Horton named a number which were doing well, but he thought in places where these had not done well, or where trees had grown in misshapen form, they

should be replaced with native trees. He liked the native black tree fern, and said that what the coconut palm was to the South Sea Islands the ponga was to New Zealand. After having visited most of the notable parks and botanical gardens in South America, Australia, Europe, and Japan, the speaker said that Pukekura Park could hold its own with them, and what he would like to see would be a very generous subscription to the board's funds or some good legacies left with which to carry on the work of development.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speaker for his address, and comment was made on the value the park had proved to botanical and science students at the local High Schools.

Rotarian Stainton also spoke on the question of the Park Board funds and said that while it cost them £1000 a year to maintain the park, the assured income of the board amounted to £300.

TH, NOVEMBER 25, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey presiding. There were also present, Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, J. McLeod, F. Amoores, G. M. Spence, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (secretary). An apology was received from Mr. W. C. Weston.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported "Since my last report we have reformed the John Street walk four feet wide, and metalled it. This was a very slippery pathway in wet weather, and the new work is much appreciated by those using it frequently. A low, wet part, between the rotunda and Cannon hill, has been raised and metalled, and a channel cut for the surface water to get away more readily than it has hitherto done. Metal has been deposited in several places adjacent to where it is most urgently required and will be used as time permits of the necessary formation work in these parts being done.

The long island beyond the boatshed and near the Newton King walk has been thoroughly overhauled, large quantities of decaying branches removed, and the whole area put into good order. Many thousands of seedlings of gorse and broom have been coming up in various parts of the park, and we have pulled up large numbers of them by the roots so as to have no further trouble with them. There is quite a lot to be dealt with yet, and if this work is to be completed, I shall require a man for a week to assist. If you agree to this, the same man can help with a few days' mowing. The grass is growing very fast now, and it is imperative to cut it in many places where the pathways are in grass.

All the newly planted trees, numbering over eight hundred, have been hoed around and the weeds removed, and where necessary cultivation has been carried on. By permission of the

chairman, I am now supervising the special work being done by the Sports Committee in the recreation ground. I have to report that through the property owner adjoining the park letting the water of his lake go, so that he could clean out the lake, a great deal of silt has come into the upper reaches of our watercourse, which was hitherto used for boating. On account of the silt this stretch of waterway is useless, and in fact is almost blocked altogether.

Very large quantities of rubbish and debris of all kinds have been removed from the lakes, and I propose removing a further lot from those places where it collects most. It is impossible to do this work as thoroughly as it should be done by the permanent staff, as it is a rather big undertaking. The usual work of maintaining the park in good order has been carried out as expeditiously and economically as possible. The special feature of the park just now is the rose bed, which is now in full bloom."

With reference to the silting up at the far end of the lake, Mr. McLeod was authorised to interview Mr. Newton King and discuss the matter.

RACECOURSE GULLY.

Mr. Spence suggested that steps should be taken to improve the gully leading to the racecourse, and he said he would very much like to see the formation of a lake, which had apparently been started some time ago, completed. It was an ideal position for a lakelet and would form a most picturesque spot.

During the discussion which ensued it was stated that a considerable sum of money had been spent years ago with the idea of forming a lake and swimming baths there, but that it was later found there was not sufficient water finding its way into the gully to form a permanent lake, and the idea was therefore abandoned. The proposal now was to eventually fill in the swamp and plant the gully.

A MENACE.

With reference to the nuisance created at the board's section at the corner of Liardet Street and Gilbert Street through storm water being drained into it, the secretary stated that the Borough Council disclaimed any responsibility on the grounds that it was a natural watercourse.

Considerable discussion ensued and it was stated that left as at present the nuisance was a menace to the health of residents in the locality, and that under the circumstances the health authorities should be consulted.

Eventually it was agreed to leave the question in the hands of a committee to investigate and report upon.

CONTROL OF SPORTS GROUND.

Mr. L. Little, secretary of the Sports Ground Committee, wrote asking if the board would undertake the care of the ground for 12 months for the sum of £175.

After a general discussion it was decided that the board favourably consider the proposal and a sub-committee consisting

of the chairman and Mr. Amoores was appointed to confer with the Sports Ground Committee.

A sub-committee was appointed to confer with representatives of various musical organisations in the town regarding a series of concerts it is hoped to arrange during the coming season.

FIREWORKS BRING IN £100.

The secretary reported having forwarded a letter of thanks and appreciation to Mr. D. Morgan for his services in connection with the firing of the recent fireworks display. Letters of thanks had also been forwarded to the Citizens' Band for its co-operation, to the borough electrical engineer (Mr. W. H. Huggett) and the borough inspector (Mr. R. Day) for valued assistance, Messrs. A. S. Patterson and Co. for donation of a case of kerosene for bonfire, the Criterion Motors, Ltd., for donation of old oil for the fire, and the Fire Brigade for its practical interest in the display.

Appreciative reference was also made to the assistance which was given by the school masters in bringing the Guy Fawkes competition before the notice of school children.

The secretary said the display would result in a profit of about £100 to the park funds.

VARIOUS MATTERS.

The question of arranging a children's fete at the park was referred to Mr. McLeod and the secretary.

The secretary reported having written to the headmasters of the town schools with reference to the suggestion that the scholars in the upper classes should have an opportunity of visiting the park and being shown over same by the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton), who would explain the various trees and other matters of interest. It was felt that if interest could be aroused in this way in the park good would result.

Mr. J. W. Thomas wrote that he thought the suggestion was a good one and that he would be pleased to take advantage of the offer.

Mr. A. L. Moore (principal of the Technical College) and Mr. McClune (Westown School) also wrote stating that they thought the idea a good one and that they would be glad to accept the offer.

The board decided to offer no objection to boys attending the Technical College swimming in the lake during the luncheon hour, provided the usual conditions were observed.

Mr. Val Duff, hon. secretary of the Acclimatisation Society, wrote suggesting that if it was to drain the upper lake again this year the work be done during the summer so as not to interfere with operations at the society's hatchery.

TDN, NOVEMBER 25, 1925

CONTROL OF SPORTSGROUND

A CHANGE CONTEMPLATED.

Negotiations are in progress between the sportsground Committee and the

Pukekura Park Board, as a result of which it is expected that the control of the sportsground at the park will be taken over by the board, and the ground will be under the Personal supervision of the park superintendent. The basis of the negotiations is an offer made to the board by the Sportsground Committee to pay the latter £175 per annum if it will take over control of the ground.

The offer of the committee was reviewed favourably by the members or the board at a meeting held last night, when correspondence was received from the committee suggesting that a sub-committee appointed by the board should meet its own representatives to discuss the matter.

Mr. F. Amooore considered that it was a move in the right direction. It was desirable that the park superintendent should have control of the ground.

The Sportsground Committee was well aware of the fact that two and a half days a week was sufficient to keep the ground in order, said Mr. J. McLeod, and it thought that the board could with advantage use the £175 to procure extra permanent labour and do the necessary work on the ground by concentrating its staff on that particular work for a short time each week.

Mr. P. E. Stainton felt sure that the board would not lose money by taking over the control of the ground on the lines suggested. Even if a permanent hand cost more than £175 a year, the extra cost would be more than saved, because the extra casual labour employed now would no longer be required.

Mr. Horton (the park superintendent) felt that the ground should be under his control, and he considered that the idea was an excellent one, but he thought he should have an extra permanent hand, not a casual hand.

Some discussion ensued as to whether the £175 offered by the Sportsground Committee would be sufficient to pay for a permanent man. After further discussion, in the opinion was expressed that the offer of the Sportsground Committee was a generous one, a sub-committee consisting of the chairman and Mr. Amooore was appointed to go into the matter with the Sportsground Committee and endeavour to settle a number of details.

TH, DECEMBER 16, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday. Mr. H. Dempsey, chairman, presided.

There were also present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, M.P., R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, J. McLeod, A. T.

Moore, F. Amooore, and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

An apology was received from Mr. W. C. Weston.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, reported that the most important special work had been the completion of the new terraces near the press stand in the Recreation Grounds and the sowing of seed thereon.

He acknowledged receipt of one load of gravel from the Borough Council for park purposes.

Major Sandford came along with a number of Boy Scouts and put in a few hours of very useful work, burning off rubbish, etc.

Ten loads of broken concrete from the old Bank of New South Wales site had been received and would ultimately be used in connection with work in the new fernery, etc.

He had received from Anderson and Son, of Napier, several boxes of annuals which had been planted. These were complimentary, and the best thanks of the Board was due to them.

The cricket pitches had again been top-dressed and would be ready for the special matches to be played here during the coming holidays.

The fernery sub-committee, together with the citizens' representatives, visited the proposed site of the fernery and had conferred with him re the proposed work.

On behalf of the board he had taken over as from December 1 from the sports committee all the work of the Recreation Ground which the ordinary staff of the board now doing.

He had received offers of assistance in stocking the new fernery with varieties they had not got, from enthusiasts of Auckland who had recently visited the park.

The general work had been well maintained and everything was in fair order, but there were many matters requiring attention and which would be an advantage to the park if done, but the present staff was inadequate to do it all. He was hoping, however, to get some of the work completed as opportunity offered during the New Year.

The report was received, and hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Major Sandford and Boy Scouts for their assistance, and to Messrs. Anderson and Son for donation of annuals.

UPKEEP OF SPORTS GROUND.

Mr. Amooore, on behalf of the sub-committee appointed for the purpose, reported having conferred with the sports ground committee, and that they had come to an arrangement whereby the board would undertake the care of the

sports ground, the sports ground committee paying to the board £175. The arrangement, it was explained, was for 12 months and that in the event of the sports ground committee requiring extra work to be done apart from the ordinary upkeep of the ground this would be an extra charge on the sports ground committee. The arrangement was confirmed.

FINANCE.

The secretary submitted a statement showing the receipts and expenditure from April 1 to December 18 inclusive. Receipts amounted to £500 5s 2d, including borough subsidy, boats, donations, etc. £313 10s; fireworks £186 15s 2d. The expenditure amounted to £816 6s, including wages £602, repairs to tea kiosk £33 9s, sundries £48 12s, electric cooker £18 15s, tables and chairs £30, fireworks £83 10s. The receipts for the corresponding periods of 1923 and 1924 were £385 and £473 respectively, and the expenditure £434 14s 2d and £689 7s 11d.

PROPOSED FERNERY.

Messrs. M'Leod and Amooore, on behalf of the fernery committee submitted a plan which provided for three large "dug-outs" each 60ft by 30ft. The estimated cost of the work was £450 plus cost of glass for roof estimated at from £100 to £150.

Considerable discussion ensued with regard to finance, and it was proposed that the board provide £300 towards the cost, the sub-committee undertaking to raise the balance.

Eventually however, it was agreed to defer the final decision to an adjointed meeting to be held on Tuesday evening.

TH, DECEMBER 23, 1925

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING FERNERY TO PROCEED

An adjourned meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening to discuss the proposal to provide a fernery. A sub-committee of the board had gone carefully into the whole question and recommended that a fernery be established in accordance with a plan submitted and which provides for three large "dug outs" which will eventually be covered with a glass roof. The estimated cost of the work including glass is about £520. The sub-committee asked the board to contribute £300 of this amount and undertook to raise the balance by special effort. The board after full discussion decided to proceed with the work on the lines suggested and, it is hoped in the course of a few years the park will possess one of the finest ferneries in the Dominion.

1926

In June, the fernery construction started, this had been many years in the planning. This was a huge undertaking, three 60ft x 40ft grottos linked by tunnels, covered with a glass roof. The front chamber lay east-west, the other two chambers behind, side by side laying north-south. The back chambers raised 10ft above the front one. These were cut into the side of a hill. To start, approximately 12ft of earth was removed from above where the fernery chambers were to be, forming a plateau roughly 180ft x 90ft. The topsoil from this excavation was put to one side and later used to cover what is now the Fred Parker Lawn. The fernery was designed by Mrs. Lovell of Hawera who had a fernery of a similar nature in her own garden.

Approximately 4000 cubic yards of soil and clay was removed during the construction, all dug manually with spades. The removal of this material off-site would have been prohibitive, fortunately, there was a swamp nearby which needed filling in, and the level was raised by as much as 12ft, to form a lawn (subsequently named Fred Parker Lawn). Clay was used for the bulk of the land reclamation then covered with black soil. They also decided to form a second lakelet and some of the clay was used for that. The excavated material was transferred to a truck on rails to take it approximately 100ft to the dam site. In charge of the construction of the fernery was Mr. W Holmes, of Putaruru. Six labourers were employed, four dedicated to digging out the earth, one to level the swamp and one in charge of the truck. This took about 5 months to complete, sometimes under very trying conditions. Thomas Horton was supervising the project.

By October the superintendent reported that the excavation for the fernery house construction had been completed as far as it was advisable before the carpentry work and glazing was done. The concrete foundations were also finished. Unfortunately, there was a delay in the delivery of the glass for the roof.

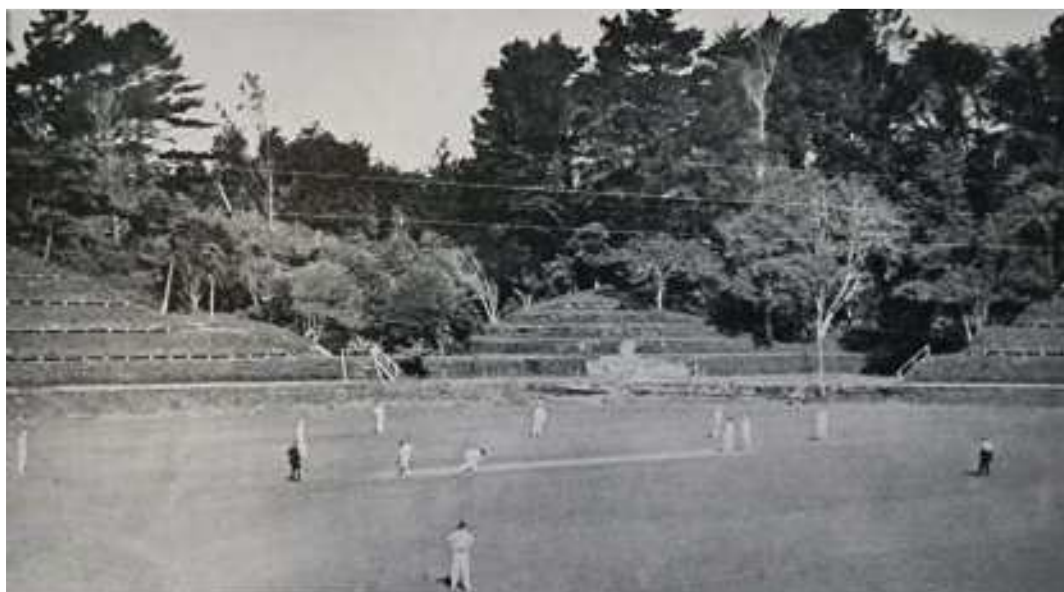
While construction was ongoing many people were out collecting ferns. The Fernery Committee had visited the Taranaki Forests property. Messrs Maxwell and Davies collected ferns on a trip to King Country, Rotorua, Bay of Plenty and Auckland. Plus, lots of friends of the Park from around the country sent ferns.

The other big project happening at the same time as the fernery excavation, was the dredging of the main lake. The newly acquired Fordson tractor for the Sports Ground, was adapted to drive the winch. The tractor was acquired for cutting the grass in the sports ground, until then a horse had been used to pull the mower. The tractor was four times quicker than the horse.

A major fundraising effort was carried out with circulars and envelopes taken to every house in New Plymouth. This managed to generate almost £500.

Plant Donations Included:

Mr. Putt, 100 pohutukawa seedlings; Mr. Cowling, of Westown, several California redwood; Mr. R. Cock, quantity of bulbs; Messrs. Johnston and Son, of Auckland, 12 Kauri trees; Mr. J. Wheeler, parcel of small pohutukawa trees; Duncan & Davies, collection of ferns; Mrs. Graham, puka trees; Earp Bros., of Vogeltown, 3 tree ferns; Mr. Freethy, rhododendrons.



Cricket Field. *Taranaki Herald*, December 31, 1927



Main Lake – Pukekura Park. *Auckland Weekly News*, May 13, 1926



Boy Scouts Holiday Camp – Pukekura Park. *Auckland Weekly News*, January 14, 1926

TDN, JANUARY 4, 1926

SCOUTS TRAINING FOR JAMBOREE

With the idea of training for the forthcoming jamboree at Dunedin, which they are to attend, seventeen scouts from the 2nd New Plymouth Central Troop are in camp in Pukekura Park. The camp will be struck on Wednesday night. On the following Saturday morning fifteen scouts (14 of whom will be from the Central Troop) will leave for Dunedin.

The camp is under the charge of Major F. W. Sandford, who has the support of assistant-scoutmasters E. Riding and H. Kendrick. The boys went on Thursday morning into camp, which is located on the ground between the two streams which feed the upper lake. The scouts do their own cooking on an iron grid in the open, and appear to be thriving on the fare. The tents are neatly arranged both inside and out, and the camp has a tidy appearance. Visits to the camp are paid daily by the younger boys of the troop, who are known as cubs.

As an acknowledgement to the Park Board for the use of the ground, the scouts do an hour's work daily in the park. The rest of the time is spent in practicing ambulance work, bridge building, and other lines of scout activities.

**TH, JANUARY 6, 1926
VISITORS TO THE PARK**

Pukekura Park has been well patronised during the holidays, and visitors from many parts of the Dominion and overseas have expressed themselves delighted with the scenery. A visitor from Adelaide (which city is famed for its gardens), after a walk round on Tuesday, exclaimed: "Oh! If Adelaide only had that lake and those mamaku!" It is estimated that nearly 2000 people went to the park during Tuesday.

Picnic parties are among the visitors, and in order to accommodate them rustic tables have been erected under the pergola near the tea kiosk. The seats are made of stumps of ironbark and English oak embedded in the ground, with small planks on the upper ends. This helps to prevent congestion at the kiosk and makes an ideal place for picnickers' lunch.

Boating on the lake has been more popular than usual, and the number of hirings constitutes a record.

The rose bed still has a fair amount of bloom, duo to care and attention by the park staff. The irises, which were glorious a fortnight ago, have faded.

The waterfall near the Gilbert Street entrance is a source of delight to visitors. It will be even more so, for the rusty tins and debris in the pool were cleared away to-day.

Farmers are particularly interested in the new tractor in use on the sportsground. The horse is no longer used for drawing the mower, the tractor being able to do the work in about a third of the time.

**TH, JANUARY 17, 1926
THOUSANDS OF VISITORS
KIWIS & AN ALBATROS**

A SUGGESTED "EEL DAY."

There have been thousands of visitors to Pukekura Park during the past few weeks and they have been unstinted in their appreciation of its beauties. The flowers, at present, are a great attraction, especially the begonias, which are in full bloom. The coloured water-lilies in the small lily pond are flowering profusely, and the surroundings of this quarter of the park bear a charming appearance, made all the more attractive by the small cascade which falls close by.

INTEREST IN DUCKS.

Visitors have taken kindly to the ducks and display a keen interest in their welfare. "To the delight of many, a fresh brood of about twelve ducklings made their appearance on the upper lake on Tuesday, accompanied by a proud parent.

Lately many ducklings have fallen prey to the depredations of eels, and recently one perturbed onlooker, incidentally a visitor, reported that he had seen an eel about four feet in length seize a duckling and drag it under despite the brave efforts of the mother, which made a terrible commotion in pursuit of the raider. In order to overcome this it has been suggested that an "eel day" be held, when all local fishermen of repute, will be invited to participate in the good work of clearing the lakes of eels. Some fifty Muscovy ducks are being reared privately and will be liberated when they are strong enough to fend for themselves. The pair of kiwis recently presented to the park and liberated on the larger island have not revealed themselves often, probably owing to their timidity, but is surmised that they still survive.

AN ALBATROSS ACCEPTED.

A young albatross has been accepted for the park from the keepers of the Cape Egmont lighthouse and should be a valuable acquisition. The bird, which has been at the lighthouse for some time, suffered an injury to its wings and, becoming quite tame, showed a reluctance to leave. Little information is available as to the nature of the food likely to be, required by it, but the general opinion is that it will find plenty to eat in the park. As regards its fishing powers, there is some doubt on the point but, should it take a fancy to the eels, it will more than earn its keep.

It is believed that never before has the park been so popular as during the past few weeks. On one day last week a total of 180 motorcars was counted at the park, and the numbers of all indicated that they came from outside districts. On Boxing Day it was estimated that there were no less than 2000 people in the park, the average number of visitors daily during the holidays was about 700.

**TH, JANUARY 20, 1926
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING**

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey presiding. Others present were: Messrs. P. E. Stainton, F. Amooore, J. McLeod, W. F. Short, and the superintendent (Mr. T. H.

Horton). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. G. M. Spence, W. C. Weston, A. T. Moore and R. C. Hughes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The Park superintendent (Mr. T. H. Horton) reported that during the month tables had been erected for the use of picnickers in the shade of the pergola near the tea kiosk. All these, six in number, had been in constant use and were very much appreciated. The work of ventilating the kiosk had been carried out, by Mr. Amooore and the lessee stated that the work had been carried out to her satisfaction. Mr. Noble began his duties on December 21 and had been mainly employed on the sportsground, learning to handle the new Fordson tractor. He and Mr. Jans had both been receiving instruction in the management of the machine, which was proving of much value and was certainly a great improvement on the old system of horse traction. The sportsground area had been thoroughly overhauled, the grass on the terraces cut, and the whole put into good order. Quite a lot of extra work had been entailed in the preparation of the cricket pitches but was necessary for the matches which had been played. The appreciative remarks of the Canterbury cricketers had more than compensated for the work done. Noxious weeds on the roadside of the board's property from Brooklands Road to the foot of Victoria Road had been cut and grubbed and instructions were asked for regarding that portion facing Gover Street and occupied by a lessee. As there was a good deal of overhanging growth and weeds on the property at the corner of Gilbert and Liardet Streets, he had had that trimmed up and suggested that the board authorise the erection of a two-wire fence on the corner. He recommended that two picnic tables be erected under the pergola in front of the new pavilion on the sportsground. About 100 more labels had been put on trees and shrubs.

GENERAL MATTERS.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Amooore for his work in connection with the ventilation of the tea kiosk and the erection of tables for the use of picnickers.

Authority was given to Mr. Horton to carry out work as recommended, with the exception of the Gilbert-Liardet Street, corner, which matter is to be discussed with representatives of the Borough Council.

**TH, JANUARY 20, 1926
HATCHERY MATTERS**

The monthly meeting of the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society was held on Monday evening.

The president, Mr. G. Grover, reported, that he had visited Opunake and, with members of the sub-committee in that district, had arranged for a fish ladder to be fixed at the Power Board's dam at the Waiuaa Bridge. An iron grating was also to be provided by the society to prevent the egress of trout from the lake into the Waiuaa River.

HATCHERY MATTERS.

The plant at the New Plymouth hatchery will be overhauled and painted in readiness for the next holding season. Mr. Grover reported that he had visited the Government hatchery at Rotorua specially to inspect the basket system of fish rearing and, as it was much superior to the present method, he recommended the society to adopt it. It was decided to secure wire mesh for the manufacture of baskets, but it was impossible to obtain it from America in time for this season. If, however, it was obtained, the work of altering the plant would not take long. The basket system would simplify hatching operations and greatly increase the output.

The feeling of the meeting was that the society must endeavour to rear more fish in the future. Some 455,000 were reared last year, and it was hoped that the basket system, without incurring any additional expense, would increase the output to about 700,000. The society's aim was to produce at least a million a year eventually, and that might mean the establishment of a new hatchery. The production of a hatchery depended on an ample water supply of a nature suitable for the purpose and the water of the park might not be sufficient for the society's needs. There was no wish to go to the expense of a removal, and some experience with the baskets would show what could be done.

TH, FEBRUARY 17, 1926

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, M. P., R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, A. T. Moore, F. Amooore, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent).

An apology was received from Mr. W. C. Weston.

Mr. Horton reported the work done during the month had been principally that of general maintenance. The grass on the hill above the native bush areas had been mowed and burnt; also the slopes from John Street walk and that portion at the head of the gully near the rhododendron dell. The heavy growth of rushes, raupo, etc., in the swamp off the racecourse walk had also been cut, and is ready for burning. The eleagnus hedge between Vogeltown entrance and tennis courts had been cut and cleaned up. The playing area on the sports ground had been regularly mown, and cricket pitches prepared and all essential work done. There had been a good deal of trouble with breakages in the large mowing machine, but these had been repaired and everything was now in order. The storm during the third week in January did a good deal of damage, the chief of which was the breaking off of a large branch from the catalpa speciosa in front of the kiosk. The erection of a stand at the time of the band concert which provided seating accommodation for several hundreds was much appreciated by the public. Owing to the bad weather recently the

boat takings had been considerably affected. He had received about 100 seedling pohutukawas from Mr. Wm. Putt, and these had been planted in the nursery to grow in until strong enough to plant out.

General satisfaction was expressed by members with the work being done in the park and on the excellent appearance of the sports ground, the surface of which had never looked better.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Putt for his donation of pohutukawas.

Mr. W. Bezzant (hon. secretary), wrote thanking the board for allowing the boys of No. 2 Troop (Central Boy Scouts) under Major Sandford, the use of the park for the recent camp.

The Pipe Band applied for and granted permission to hold a concert at the sports ground on April 11.

Appreciative reference made to the kindness of Mr. F. C. Ferry in arranging the recent concert on behalf of the park funds, and he was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

It was decided to procure a pair of white swans from Masterton, and the superintendent was authorised to sell the bird at present located in the park.

Mr. Hughes suggested that as a means of assisting the finances of the board the sympathy and support of the Swimming Club be solicited with the object of arranging for a swimming spots meeting at the large lake. Mr. Hughes said that years ago many successful aquatic gatherings were held, and if a similar gathering were held now he thought they would attract a very large crowd.

The suggestion met with the unanimous approval of the board and the finance committee was requested to take the matter in hand.

It was stated that arrangements were also being made for a big fireworks display on the lake.

TDN, MARCH 4, 1926

CARNIVAL IN PUKEKURA PARK.

The local swimming clubs have been approached by the Pukekura Park Board to organise an aquatic carnival in the park with a view to assisting the funds of the board. A meeting of the clubs was held on Tuesday evening, and it was decided to hold a carnival at an early date, particulars of which will be announced in a day or two. It is a good many years since a swimming carnival was held in the big lake, so a large attendance of the public may be expected. The object is surely a worthy one, and all supporters of swimming will be expected to respond to the appeal.

TDN, MARCH 12, 1926

CARNIVAL ON LAKE SUCCESSFUL WATER SPORTS SPECTACULAR LIGHTING EFFECTS.

Illuminated by hundreds of electric lights of all colours, the lake in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, was a splendid sight last evening, when a very successful aquatic carnival was held in aid of funds for improvements for New

Plymouth's famous scenic area. By the time that the programme opened, crowds had collected in the vicinity of the lake, and during the course of the evening all were treated to a bright and interesting display. Both the New Plymouth Citizens' Band and the Pipe Band were in attendance, and appropriate musical programmes were rendered.

The sports were organised by members of the Park Board, in conjunction with members of the swimming clubs in New Plymouth, and as a result of their excellent organisation the events were run off without undue delay.

Besides the competitive events, the evening was brightened by the highly amusing fishing exploits of Mr. Zane Blue, while a very successful display of life-saving by the Old Boys' life-saving team was watched with interest.

At the conclusion of the programme, Mr. F. Amooore, acting chairman of the Pukekura Park Board, presented the prizes to the winning swimmers. In addressing the assembled gathering, Mr. Amooore thanked all present for patronising the sports, and especially extended thanks to the officials and to the bands for their assistance. He hoped that the present carnival would be the forerunner of many others next season, and referred to the wonderful asset New Plymouth had in the park. In conclusion, Mr. Amooore asked that a large crowd should be present on Thursday next, when a monster fireworks display was being held in the park.

TH, MARCH 17, 1926

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening. In the unavoidable absence of the chairman (Mr. H. Dempsey) Mr. F. Amooore presided and there were also present Messrs. W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (secretary). An apology was also received from Mr. R. C. Hughes. Major Bertrand applied for the use of the lake for swimming by the Boys' High School cadets, who were going into Camp on the racecourse between March 22 and 27. To lessen risks of accident he would have a life-saving squad on duty at each parade and an officer in charge.

Mr. W. Bezzant (hon. secretary) applied for permission for Major Sandford to have the use of the park for a week-end camp for the Cubs of the No. 2 troop (Central Boy Scouts).

Both applications were granted.

The chairman reported that the recent swimming carnival was a fairly successful one and had resulted in about £15 being raised. Appreciative reference was made to the enthusiasm displayed by members of the Swimming Centre and the associated clubs and to their untiring efforts to ensure the success of the gathering.

Mr. Spence stated that the total receipts amounted to £45 2s, including £41 3s gate takings. After meeting expenses there would be a credit of approximately £15.

During the discussion which ensued it was stated that, although the profit was not so large as had been expected, still the carnival had served a very useful introduction for such gatherings and it was confidently expected that if similar gatherings were arranged earlier in the season in subsequent years they would prove very popular.

Thanks were accorded to the Swimming Centre and associated clubs, to the Citizens' Band and Pipe Band, gatekeepers, High School Old Boys, and borough electrical staff responsible for the special lighting arrangements around the lake.

The matter of arranging for temporary lights at the entrances to the park on Thursday night on the occasion of the fireworks display was left in the hands of Mr. Amoores.

It was reported that at previous functions at the park quite a number of people had gained admission illegitimately at other than the gates and in order to put a stop to this despicable practice it was decided to have scouts all around the park.

TDN, MARCH 19, 1926

**A BRILLIANT DISPLAY.
FIREWORKS AT THE PARK,
DAZZLING SCENES ON LAKE.**

The large crowd which surrounded the lake at Pukekura Park last night was provided with a quick succession of thrills which called forth expressions of awe and wonder from all concerning the ingenuity displayed by fireworks manufacturers and the beautiful effects they obtain.

It would be difficult to select the most phenomenal display, but the fiery golden cascade, with its continuous shower of sparks which fell hissing into the water like the rumble of a waterfall from one end of the bridge to the other, was certainly the most realistic.

An abundance of rockets shot into the heavens, leaving a trail of fire and ending their transient flight with a shower of multi-coloured stars, which sparkled for a second and one by one faded away.

For one thrilling minute, a glorious conglomeration of rainbow wheels, sparks and smoke from the Saxon pontoon in the centre of the lake made a scene of dazzling splendour.

Miniature warships engaged one another in battle and sent showers of sparks flying across the water with resonant bangs. The sulphureous smoke which permeated the atmosphere must, surely have been consistent with the real thing. Rotating chromatropes, rising suns, batteries of Roman candles and shells formed an aurora which, reflected in the waters of the lake, made a lasting impression.

The display was given by the Wainoni Company for the Pukekura Park Board. The board wishes to thank the Citizens' Band, who gave a number of selections during the evening, and also the gatekeepers.

The sum of £141 16s was taken at the gates, but it is estimated by the officials that, despite scouts posted round he

grounds, a large number of persons gained admission by other than legitimate means.

TDN, APRIL 26, 1926

**MEMORY OF ANZAC.
AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.
THE GREATEST ON RECORD.**

With the incomparably thrilling notes of "The Last Post" ringing out over the park, and thousands of people rising to their feet in respect to the memory of the heroes of the Anzac divisions, the impression was irresistibly conveyed at the Anzac Day ceremonial at New Plymouth yesterday that Anzac, and all it stands for, is as alive in the minds of New Zealanders to-day as when the events of the Great War were fresh upon the world.

Never since Anzac became a great national day has the memorial service in New Plymouth reached such magnitude or impressiveness as yesterday, and never before has the atmosphere of respect for the country's dead, the deeds of her soldiers and the great portent of the events of the world war, been so palpably present and alive. Pukekura Park was crowded with probably seven or eight thousand people of all classes and creeds, who combined in a service unequalled in its solemnity and beauty the year round.

TH, APRIL 28, 1926

**PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING
YEAR'S WORKING REVIEWED
MUCH PROGRESS MADE.**

A report on the activities of the Pukekura Park Board for the year was presented to members by the chairman (Mr. H. Dempsey) at the annual meeting on Tuesday night. There were present Messrs. Dempsey (in the chair) C. E. Bellringer, M.P., W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, F. Amoores, G. M. Spence, R. C. Hughes, J. McLeod, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton).

"During the past year," stated Mr. Dempsey's report, "the sports ground has been placed under the control of the park superintendent, the contribution from the sports committee making it possible to add another man to the working staff. The arrangement has proved most satisfactory, as the universally expressed opinion is that the sports area has never looked so well as at present.

"A few months ago, the tea-rooms having become vacant, an opportunity was taken to carry out certain necessary improvements, including painting the building, supplying chairs and tables, providing an electric oven and installing an electric current. The rooms are at present under the control of Mrs. Ainsworth, under whose capital management they are filling a much needed want. The boat-shed, band stand and small bridge have been painted, extra seats provided and other necessary improvements carried out throughout the park generally.

OVER 800 TREES PLANTED.

"Much additional planting has been done, over 800 extra trees having been plotted out, which, owing to the attention

given to them by the staff, are all doing well. A joint improvement scheme has been completed between the board's and Mr. Spence's adjoining properties, and also on the racecourse boundary. The improved outlook at both places is very marked.

"A very important work has been done in the naming of the plants and trees, several hundreds of which have had their names attached. This has proved of considerable educational value and it is quite a usual occurrence to see both, primary and secondary school pupils going round, notebook in hand, making themselves familiar with the different varieties. The superintendent has procured from the Lands and Survey Department a plan of the board's property and, as opportunity offers, he is classifying and taking a permanent record of all the most prominent trees in the park. He considers it imperative that new boundary fences should be erected in the near future, and that considerable cleaning up should be done in connection with the lakes. Several drains will have to be lifted, cleaned and re-laid, roots of trees having choked them badly.

**PARK HAS NEVER LOOKED
BETTER.**

"The clearing away of coarse undergrowth, the cutting down of unsightly trees which were checking the growth of others of greater value, and the getting rid of decayed and dangerously overhanging branches had added much to the brightness and attractiveness of the park. At no time in its history has it looked better. Visitors from other parts, of whom we had more than usual during the past year, have been fairly charmed with the natural beauties of the park, its naturalness being to them its greatest charm. Many have expressed their high appreciation of the manner in which it is kept, and its nature beauty. There is a charm and restfulness about it of which one never tires, and the people of New Plymouth are fortunate in possessing an asset of which they should be justly proud. Cases have occurred where a lengthened stay in the town has been made owing to the pleasure derived from visiting the park.

"As already mentioned, one man has been added to the staff since, taking over the sports ground, making three permanent men besides the boatman. The board feel that they are fortunate in having men in whom they have full confidence, and they wish to express to Mr. T. Horton, the superintendent, and his staff their entire satisfaction with the manner in which their respective duties are being carried out and for the careful interest they take in the work.

"Besides the general upkeep of the park the board have in view: (a) The providing of a residence for the superintendent; (b) The erection of up-to-date tea-rooms; and (c) The completion of the fernery. The commencement of the latter would have been well forward by now had not the work been delayed by unforeseen circumstances, but an effort will be made to put the work in hand as soon as possible.

FINANCE NEEDED.

"To meet, all these requirements, however, money is required, and the financial side of the question is what the board are up against. Considering that the well-known fame of the park as to its natural beauties not only attracts visitors to New Plymouth, but also is the means of lengthening their stay here, it seems that the time has arrived when all should take a share in its upkeep and not leave it to a few to carry the responsibility. A very small rate would meet the case, and out of a rateable valuation of the borough of over a million and a half pounds a very small fraction of a penny in the pound would be sufficient. The ratepayers of New Plymouth should think this over and give our city fathers the requisite authority to strike a rate for the upkeep of Pukekura Park.

"The thanks of the board are due to May and Arrowsmith, The Hygienic and Mr. Stephens, of the Crown Bakery, for a regular supply of food for the ducks and swans on the lake; to the bands, musical societies and the swimming centre for their services in raising funds; to the donors of seeds and plants which have been sent to the superintendent during the year; to the press; to Mr. Weston for the use of a room for meetings; and to all who have in any way shown an interest in the park."

The report was adopted after discussion on the financial position which, together with details of the balance-sheet, is reported in another column.

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported that the work done recently had practically all been in the nature of general maintenance. Extra time had been spent on the sports ground in order to have it in good condition for winter work.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Mr. F. Amoores was elected chairman for the ensuing year.

A finance committee was appointed comprising the chairman and Messrs. Spence and McLeod.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring chairman, Mr. H. Dempsey, for the efficient manner in which he had carried out his duties and the great interest he had displayed during the past two years.

Appreciation of the work of the secretary (Mr. P. E. Stainton) was expressed by the chairman and a resolution recording the board's thanks was carried.

The Boy Scouts under Major Sandford were granted the use of the board's cottage during the pleasure of the board, Major Sandford offering to have the place kept in order and to procure the assistance the 'boys' in the park.

TH, MAY 26, 1926

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. F. Amoores presiding. There were also present Messrs. W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, H. Dempsey, G. M. Spence, J. McLeod, R. C. Hughes and P. E. Stainton (hon.

secretary). An apology was received from Mr. C. E. Bellringer, M.P.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, reported that since his last report, in addition to the usual work on the sportsground and the general maintenance of the park, all the pathways had been put in order for the winter months. The walk through the native bush and back over the Racecourse hill and the two paths at the head of the water-lily gully, which were covered with long grass, had been cut and shaped up and, where necessary, drained, also the grass paths over Monument Hill, and other parts. The work done made these paths useable in all weather. The staff had also reformed and metalled wet places where necessary on the main paths, but a good deal more would have to be done to get them into first-class order. The hill-tops on the eastern and western sides of the sportsground and also hill No.10 (known as Chaney's Hill), which had been neglected for some time and were in a bad condition with gorse, broom, blackberry, long grass and other rubbish, had been grubbed, mown and thoroughly cleaned up. The live hedges at John Street and around the sportsground had been cut and wire fences repaired and put in order. New Steps had been put in in steep and slippery places and, where necessary, seats had been repaired and a good deal of work of this nature had been done. The hill-top on the eastern side of the sportsground had been prepared for planting, and it was proposed to put in Pohutukawas principally, and there would be other varieties of native trees suitable for such an exposed position. Some attention had been given to the Victoria Street side of the park; new posts and battens put in, wires tightened, hedges cut and new footpaths made to connect with the existing path leading into Carrington Road walk. Quite a number of trees had been either pruned, trimmed or cut out where such work was necessary, and as this the right time of the year to do that class of work it is proposed to push on with it during the winter. Recent gales and bad weather had made a great deal of extra work for the staff, but no serious damage had been done. He acknowledged the receipt of several trees of Californian redwood from Mr. Cowling, of Westown, and a quantity of bulbs from Mr. R. Cock, of Vogeltown.

Mr. Horton was authorised to proceed with a scheme, of native tree planting in various parts of the park.

Arrangements were made to have certain trees which were endangering the electric light and telephone wires trimmed, and to remove a number of dead or unsightly trees in different parts of the park.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Cowling and Mr. Cock for their donations to the park.

Arrangements were made with the Taranaki Nurserymen's Association whereby the superintendent will take charge of the association's forestry exhibit at the Hawera Show.

The finance and fernery committees reported that the fernery committee had raised £97 5s of the £200 which it agreed

to raise during the current 12 months ending December 15 next, leaving £102 15s to be raised before that date. The fernery committee had conferred with Mrs. Lovell regarding fernery on the site since last meeting, and that lady now had the plans for the purpose of making further suggestions. The men who were to undertake the work expected to be free to commence excavation in a fortnight's time. The timber should arrive during the present month. The annual wages bill of the park amounted to about £1050 and sundry expenses could be anticipated amounting to £250, making a total annual outlay of £1300. Against this the board received sports committee subsidy £175, Borough Council £250, boats £100, sundry £55; total £570; leaving a deficit of £770. Against this it was anticipated that there could be raised fireworks display £100, fortnightly concerts for six months at £15—£215, swimming carnival, say £50, six band concerts, at say £15—£90; total £455; leaving a net loss of £285.

TH, JUNE 16, 1926

FERNERY AND LAKE PROJECTS AT PUKEKURA PARK. APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC,

Under a scheme adopted by the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday night, work is to be commenced immediately on the necessary preliminary excavation and construction of what will probably be the most complete fernery in New Zealand. At the same time it is intended that a new lakelet be constructed by utilising for a dam the spoil from the fernery excavation.

To complete these works and continue with the board's general scheme of gradually transforming Pukekura Park into a forest of native trees, funds are required, and in the near future every householder in New Plymouth will be asked to contribute towards the park funds.

At the board meeting on Tuesday the fernery committee reported that a further conference had been held on the ground with Mrs. Lovell, the superintendent, and the contractor for the excavation, and the work would be put in hand forthwith. Messrs. Boon Bros., Ltd., had generously offered to lend all necessary planks, rails and trucks for the work free of charge.

NEW LAKELET.

The committee also recommended that part of the spoil Deposited across the entrance to the gully in which the small lily pond is situated so as to form a dam to retain a lakelet in the top right-hand arm of the gully. The natural formation of the gully, they considered, lent itself to this, and the lakelet could be fed by two springs. The nature of the bottom should be tested in order to ascertain whether puddling would be necessary to retain the water, and provision should be made, if necessary, for a concrete core to the dam. The effect of the lakelet would be to make this gully one of the most attractive parts of the park, and as it could be very cheaply constructed, paths being already in existence around it and the spoil having to be dumped in the

locality in any event, the committee requested authority to proceed with the work as the excavation of the fernery proceeded.

The only doubtful question about the lakelet, said Mr. G. M. Spence, was the water supply. Other members considered, however, that the existing springs were sufficient to keep the lakelet full all the year round.

The board adopted the proposals, and on the recommendation of the fernery committee decided to circularise every householder in New Plymouth, setting out the claims of the park, and the work intended to be carried out, and appealing for funds. It is intended to organise a committee of between 50 and 60 ladies and gentlemen, who will wait on the householders a week after receipt of circulars in order to collect subscriptions. Mr. J. McLeod offered to print the circulars free of charge.

OUTLINE OF CIRCULAR.

The circulars will point out to the public the following facts:—

The upkeep of Pukekura Park, where a permanent staff of four men has to be employed to maintain the 56 acres of forest, trees and gardens and many miles of pathways, apart from the continuous work of thinning out and new planting, is a problem that only the generosity of the public can solve. The board has to find approximately £1000 a year for wages, and £250 for other expenses, to meet which the only assured revenue is £250 per annum from the Borough Council, £100 from hire of boats on the lake, and a few pounds for rents and interest on small endowments, leaving between £800 and £900 to be found by the board annually.

Heretofore, with the assistance of the bands, musical societies, and some of the sporting organisations, it has been possible, by promoting concerts and various entertainments in the grounds, to raise sufficient to make ends meet, but far too little has been available to spend in carrying out the board's policy of permanent improvement, which is, briefly, that the park shall gradually be converted into a forest of native trees, embracing, as far as is possible, specimens of every tree and shrub peculiar to New Zealand.

Many hundreds of trees have been planted out in the last few years, replacing, in most cases, mis-shapen and over-matured imported varieties. The period of transition will require steady application for several more years, and the board is concerned that no suitable opportunity should be lost of carrying on this work, for which money is urgently required.

Another work of unique character which the board has undertaken is the provision in the park of the most complete fernery in the Dominion. This ambitious project embraces three glass-covered underground chambers measuring respectively 80ft by 60ft., 60ft. by 40ft., and 60ft. by 40ft., opening into one another. The work of excavating the chambers has been commenced, and the interest of enthusiasts and collectors and cultivators of native ferns all over the

Dominion has been enlisted to provide specimens of New Zealand floral glory—her ferns. It is confidently hoped that the people of New Plymouth will have growing in the fernery within two or three years, under the most ideal conditions, varieties of every one of New Zealand's hundreds of ferns and mosses. For the immediate requirements of this work the board has a special fund available, but, if it is to be completed economically and quickly, further funds are urgently and immediately required.

TH, JUNE 16, 1926

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met at New Plymouth on Tuesday night. Present: Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), W. C. Weston, J. McLeod, R. C. Hughes, G. M. Spence, W. F. Short, and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary). An apology was received for absence from Mr. A. T. Moore, whilst Mr. C. E. Bellringer was absent on account of Parliamentary duties.

During the past month the staff had thoroughly overhauled all the area of the park on the eastern face of the hill near Vogelstown, reported the park superintendent (Mr. T. Horton). Thousands of two to four-year-old seedling self-sown sycamores and oaks had been grubbed out and burned, many permanent trees overhauled, pruned and shaped up, and other necessary work on this area had been done. The work of topping the deciduous trees, which were in the line of view of the mountain, was now being attended to.

The work authorised at the last meeting was now being done, and about 12 of the trees to come down had been felled. Twelve telephone wires on Brookland's Road had been twice broken by falling branches recently, and as he considered these trees were a source of grave danger, he had had the danger removed, according to the authority given at the May meeting.

Some trees had been planted, and places prepared for planting more.

As authorised by the chairman and committee, he visited Hawera during the month for consultation with Mrs. Lovell with regard to fernery, plants, etc. The permanent staff were now clearing the fernery site and doing necessary incidental works, preparatory to the expert doing the excavation. The man engaged for this special work was expected to start immediately. I have to report having received a visit from Messrs. Hughes and Short, members of the board, for the purpose of a personal inspection of the trees marked for felling. Both gentlemen were apparently quite satisfied.

During the month he had received 12 kauri trees from Messrs. Johnston and Son, of Auckland. They were gifts, and as there were many suitable places for them, they were very acceptable. A parcel of small pohutukawa trees received from Mr. J. Wheeler, Vogelstown.

Messrs. Hughes and Short drew attention to the cutting down of large pine trees as mentioned in the report, and

took strong exception to the action of the superintendent in having the trees felled without what they considered the proper authority of the board. These trees, they considered, acted as an effective breakwind against the heavy south-easterly winds.

Mr. McLeod said that the majority of the board were in favour of a policy of removing pine trees from time to time and replacing them with native trees, and he did not see the use of quibbling about the felling at every meeting of the board.

Mr. Short offered no objection to this policy, but said that he objected strenuously to any of the big trees being felled without definite authority from the board.

Mr. Amooore reported that he had been approached by the executive of the Returned Soldiers' Association, who made the offer that if the board could find work for a few men nominated by them, the association would pay half their wages. It was decided, if possible, to accept this offer, and the question of engaging labour and selecting the work to be done was left in the hands of the chairman and Messrs. McLeod and Spence. The same committee will confer with Mr. Newton King with regard to the cleaning out of the upper lake, which was considered the most urgent work.

TH, JUNE 19, 1926

ACCLIMATISATION NOTES

METHODS AT THE HATCHERY.

By the beginning of July the 1926 hatching season will have commenced, and the society expects to receive the first consignment of ova towards the end of the month. At first, at any rate, the old system will be used at the hatchery, as the special wire mesh ordered from America some months ago has not yet arrived, and without it the basket system cannot be adopted. It is quite possible, however, that it will arrive in time to use the baskets before the season has gone far, and if so it is certain that the convenience and capacity of the hatchery will be vastly augmented. The old system is quite obsolete, but it served its purpose.

To those who are not conversant with either system, a brief description of the two methods may prove interesting. The present system consists of hatching troughs divided into compartments, each holding a nest of perforated zinc trays upon which the ova rest, and by an ingenious arrangement the water percolates from the bottom upwards through each compartment in turn. The task of keeping the whole apparatus scrubbed and clean is very difficult and almost impossible in its entirety, and there is always a certain amount of danger from the dreadful fungus, so deadly to ova and fish.

After the fish are hatched, they have to be moved to the fry troughs, which have no subdivisions. The act of moving always causes certain casualties, as the alevins, as the young trout in that stage are called, are exceedingly delicate. It will be noted that this system requires a double set of troughs. Now, in the basket system, the ova are placed in large

baskets made of a special mesh of wire, which is so spaced that while an egg cannot pass through, an alevin can do so. The baskets, which are long receptacles shaped somewhat like a punt, hook on to the sides of a plain trough and are thus suspended in the water which flows right through. The trough and baskets are easily kept clean, and as the fish hatch they escape through the wires to the bottom, leaving all egg shells, etc., in the basket. When hatching is completed the basket is simply removed, and the same trough does throughout without handling the alevins at all. This is the latest system and when one reflects that comparatively recently ova were placed in rows upon spaced glass rods with great care, one realises that apparatus has certainly improved enormously, but for all that, "the way of a fish in the sea" remains the secret it always was and will be, and convinces the student that we know very little about them really. What, for instance, becomes of the salmon in the sea? All we know is that they disappear entirely for a period of years and then return to freshwater rivers to spawn. In the meantime they are never seen by man, much less caught.

TDN, JUNE 28, 1926

The Taranaki Acclimatisation Society expects to rear some 500,000 brown and rainbow trout fry this year. The hatcheries and plant at Pukekura Park are being put in order (reports the Herald), and the first lot of eyed ova should arrive during the next fortnight. The services of Mr. Routledge, of the Whangarei Acclimatisation Society, have been secured, and he will be the curator in charge of hatcheries and rearing operations. Mr. Routledge has had considerable experience in hatchery work, having been associated with the Rotorua, Taupo, and other Government trout-rearing institutions.

TH, JUNE 29, 1926

**PUKEKURA PARK
 WORKS IN PROGRESS**

THE FERNERY AND LAKES.

Good progress is being made at Pukekura Park with the proposed fernery and the new lake to the left of the track leading from the tea kiosk to the racecourse. At the head of the gully concerned there are some very beautiful tree ferns, of which a fine view may be obtained from near the small grandstand at the racecourse. But apart from the beauty of these ferns the portion of the park in question has long been neglected, with the result that the few grass-covered paths show little evidence that they have been used. However, the comprehensive scheme of improvements at present in hand, entailing the formation of a large and beautiful fernery and a new lake and flower beds, will cause this gully to become one of the most beautiful in the park.

LAY-OUT OF THE FERNERY.

The fernery, the plans of which were shown to a Herald reporter by Mr. W. Holmes, who is in charge of the work, will without any doubt be one of the finest, if not the finest, of its kind in the

Dominion. The plans were drawn up by Mrs. H. Lovell, of Hawera, who is a well-known authority on this kind of work, having a notable underground garden.

The plan shows that there will be three chambers, two measuring 60 feet by 30 feet and one 50 feet by 30 feet. The entrance tunnel, which is at present being cut, is to be about 25 feet long and will lead into the smallest chamber, which is to be sideways on to the entrance. From this front compartment two tunnels will be cut, one leading to each of the larger chambers, which will be placed side by side about 11 feet apart. These two will also be joined by a tunnel.

The site, which is on the south-western site of the John Street walk, has been cleared, several large trees having been felled. The work is providing employment for two unemployed returned soldiers. It is estimated that the work will take over three months, but the result will certainly be worth the trouble and money spent.

The aim of the constructors is to exhibit the ferns in the most natural manner possible. In order to ensure a plentiful supply of water a small reservoir will probably be built just above the excavation and the water will be allowed to run in small creeks among the ferns. Three hoses will also be laid on. Around the walls will be benches, one on top of another, in order that the plants may be shown to advantage. One of the larger compartments will be in the form of a rockery, while the other will be deeper at one end than another, so that one may get the impression of looking down into a gully with the ferns growing in all their native luxuriance.

The whole excavation will be covered by a glass roof and there will be only the one entrance. It is the intention of the park authorities to secure specimens of every variety of fern that it is possible to obtain.

When completed this should be one of the greatest assets both of the town and the park, and the progressive policy of the Park Board must be very highly commended.

At the head of the swamp which is being filled in by the waste from the tunnel the foundation excavation for a dam has been dug. When this dam is built there will be formed a new lake, close to the present small lake on the left of the track going to the racecourse. It is also intended to build a path right around this lake. With the filling up of the swamp below the dam site with yellow clay, black soil will be brought from the Fernery excavations at the top of the hill and will be spread over the clay. There will thus be formed new sites for flower and rose beds. The flower bed below and the two pretty little lakes which will be formed above will transform entirely the present unkempt looking gully into one of great beauty.

DEEPENING THE LAKES.

In the past there has been a great silting up in the upper reaches of the main lake, with the result that boats have found it increasingly difficult to penetrate to the

head of the lake. The board has therefore engaged men to remove the mud from this part of the lake. To facilitate the work the level of water in the lake has been, allowed to drop about two feet. A windless and derrick have been arranged



Puke Arika A.4.18

in a good position and, with ropes, buckets and pulleys, the work of removing the mud should be carried out in a quick and satisfactory manner.

TH, JULY 13, 1926
**PUKEKURA PARK
 IMPROVEMENTS FUND
 APPEAL TO CITIZENS**

It seems scarcely necessary to stress the value of Pukekura Park to the citizens of New Plymouth, or the asset which that unique and beautiful domain is to the district of Taranaki, in the appeal which is now being made by the board for funds to maintain and improve the attractions of the grounds.

The park is one of many public reserves of this district in which the people have a very justifiable pride, but the object which the board now has before it of making it complete repository for every specimen or native tree and fern is one which will commend itself to all, should meet with universal support.

It is hoped the circulars which have been issued to householders by the board will not be lightly put on one side, but that the appeal will be received by all sections of the community as the opportunity of helping in a most laudable undertaking. No contribution will be too small, but the board hopes that citizens will respond in the measure in which they value the park and desire to see the scheme of improvement carried out. These works have been fully explained through the columns of the *Herald*, and the board has launched its appeal in the confident expectation that it will receive the practical endorsement of the public.

TH, JULY 19, 1926

**PUKEKURAPARK
 CONSTRUCTION OF FERNERY AND
 LAKELETS
 PROGRESS OF IMPROVEMENTS.**

Keen interest is being shown in the construction of the new fernery at Pukekura Park, and a large number of citizens availed themselves of the invitation of the park Board to visit the site and see the progress of the work on Sunday afternoon. General satisfaction was expressed with the plans and all

were surprised at the magnitude of the work being undertaken.

Mr. F. Amoore (chairman of the Park Board), and several members of the board, together with Mr. T. Horton (park superintendent), were present and explained to visitors the plans for the construction of the fernery chambers on the hill behind the tea kiosk and the reclamation of the swamp and construction of lakelets nearby with the spoil removed in excavating the tunnels and chambers. The chambers will be roofed with glass, and a stout protection fence 12ft. high around the fernery site is in course of erection.

Several visitors asked whether part of the funds raised some two years ago by means of the queen carnival was allocated for the construction of the fernery, and it was stated that such was the case, a sum of £300 or £400 having been set aside for this purpose. This fund is now being drawn upon and is being used, but will be insufficient to carry the work through, and part of the money which the citizens are now being asked to subscribe will be required to complete the project. The balance will be allocated towards the maintenance of the park, including the cleaning out of the mud deposits which have accumulated at the head of both arms of the large lake.

Now that the surface of the lake has been lowered 12 or 18 inches, these deposits are exposed, and a gang of men is engaged with the necessary appliances, including a tractor adapted to do duty as a winch, removing many tons of silt and rubbish which have impeded the boats and seriously threatened to lessen the depth of the lake, having already completely filled the two upper arms.

The ordinary revenue of the board (about £350) falls far short of ordinary maintenance charges (about £1250), so that periodical efforts are necessary to replenish the board's coffers. The appeal which has now been launched by the board's circular letter to householders is for the purpose of enabling it to carry on the above-mentioned special works as well as ordinary maintenance. Every householder in the borough will be waited on by members of the organisations which have volunteered their services for the purpose to-night, to-morrow or Wednesday night between 5.30 and 7.15, to collect the envelopes sent out by the board with the donations of those citizens who think the park worthy of their support, a generous response is confidently anticipated.

Later in the afternoon a number of Girl Guides, Girl Citizens and Technical College girls, who are assisting in the collection of the envelopes, were entertained at afternoon tea by the board.

TH, JULY 20, 1926

CONSTITUTION OF BOARD. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

The question of the constitution of Pukekura Park Board, under the Taranaki Botanical Domains Act, 1876, came briefly before the Borough Council on Monday evening in the form of draft of a proposed amendment to the Act, more plainly setting out the position of

the nominees of the council on the board, and providing against the invalidating of any of the board's actions in the past on the technical grounds of the illegality of the position of these members of the board. This matter has been before the board, who made certain suggestions to the council on the matter on Monday night. These, and some further recommendations by the council, were considered and if approved by the board be brought before Parliament for the necessary legislative authority, by way of an amendment to the original Act.

The Mayor pointed out that at present the council, because of its subsidising of the board, had three representatives thereon, but in reality they had no legal standing. At present members of the board were appointed by the Government and held office for life. That was not considered in accordance with modern ideas. From time to time the question of the legal standing of the council's representatives had been considered, and it was felt desirable to have the Act amended so as to legalise their positions, and also to provide that the actions of the board in the past should not be invalidated because of the uncertainty of the status of the council's representatives on the board. If it was desired to have these representatives act on the board their position should be placed above reproach. The board had framed an Act of two clauses, but the council's solicitor did not think they went quite far enough to be secure against the invalidation of the board's actions in the past. It was therefore proposed to incorporate a clause providing against such a possibility. The general effect of the proposed amendment was to provide for a board of 10 members, seven of whom should be appointed by the Government and three by the Borough Council, the latter holding office for two years from their appointment in May, after the municipal elections, when all the council committees were set up. The present members of the board are to remain in their appointments according to the provisions of the original Act, but it proposed to provide that all future appointments to the board shall be for a term of five years.

In reply to a question, the Mayor stated that the council's present representatives on the board were Messrs. F. Amoore, who is its chairman, G. M. Spence and A. T. Moore.

The proposed amendments were approved by the council and, if accepted by the Park Board, Parliament will be asked to pass them as an amendment to the original Act.

TH, JULY 20, 1926

THE APPEAL FOR FUNDS. GOOD RESPONSE RECEIVED.

As the result of the first evening's work in collecting the subscription envelopes in connection with the fernery in Pukekura Park a very satisfactory response has been received, the collectors being always courteously received and very rarely refused a donation. The envelopes will not be opened until all have been collected.

The Girl Guides practically completed the collection in the Fitzroy district, and have volunteered to help in some other district to-night. The Girl Citizens have made a good commencement, but it will take at least two more evenings to cover their area. The Old Boys finished the Belt Road-Lynmouth area, and the Westown collectors have made a good start. The work of collecting the envelopes will be continued to-night and to-morrow night.

The fernery construction work was inspected yesterday by Mrs. Lovell, of Hawera, who was largely responsible for designing the fernery, in company with Mr. Besley and Mr. J. McLeod, representing the voluntary committee and the Park Board respectively. Mrs. Lovell expressed herself as being much pleased with the progress being made, and thoroughly satisfied with the work.

The excavation is now in hard clay, and the contractor is confident that one chamber will be ready for planting in about a month. The voluntary committee is therefore faced with the work of collecting ferns for planting, and will be pleased to receive specimens of ferns of every description from as many sources as possible. Duplication will not matter at the present time, as a great quantity will be required to fill the chambers. Duplicate varieties can be weeded out as fresh specimens are received.

TH, JULY 21, 1926

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. J. McLeod, R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, G. M. Spence, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent). In the absence of the chairman, Mr. F. Amoore, who forwarded an apology, Mr. McLeod was elected chairman. Apologies were also received from Messrs. H. Dempsey and W. C. Weston.

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported that since last meeting the returned soldiers had started work and were working well. Most of the time the staff had been employed on the site of the fernery and other new works at the site. The fernery staff was well ahead with the first chamber, and had tunnelled into the second chamber. The mud from the large lake was being removed as quickly as possible with the plant. Good progress had been made since the tractor had been used for winding up the load. At present, 50 buckets could be handled in an hour, compared with 18 or 20 previously. Unfortunately one of the men had met with an accident, breaking some ribs, but he was now making good progress.

The Taranaki Acclimatisation Society wrote asking that the board defer the work of cleaning out the lake until October or November when the operations at the hatchery would not be affected. —It was stated that the lake had not been drained sufficiently to affect the water supply at the hatchery.

The Inglewood town clerk wrote stating that his council had an abandoned gravel

pit permanently filled with water, making it very unsightly and inquired if a few water lilies could be given to improve its appearance. A similar request was also received from the Hawera Domain Board. —It was decided to grant them the lilies required. Messrs. Duncan and Davies: wrote offering to donate a collection of New Zealand ferns, all correctly named, and in 36 to 40 varieties, of a total value of about £5. It was decided to thank the donors, Mr. Moore saying that he hoped this offer would prove an incentive to others.

The proposed amendments to the Taranaki Botanical Gardens Act were explained by Mr. Spence and approved. A clause was added fixing the name of the board as the Pukekura Park Board, its present name being the Board of Trustees for Public Recreation.

The superintendent reported that Mrs. W. D. Graham had offered to pay for some special trees which he had expressed a desire to have in the park. — A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Graham.

COLLECTION OF ENVELOPES.

After the collection of envelopes in connection with the appeal on behalf of funds for the fernery was completed for the day it was found last evening that a total of £186 15s 11d had been received.

TDN, JULY 21, 1926

PROPOSED NAME CHANGE FOR BOARD

The real name of the Pukekura Park Board is the Board of Trustees for Public Recreation. That is according to the Taranaki Botanic Gardens Act of 1876, but the board decided last night that it preferred its more popular title and at the suggestion of Mr. G. M. Spence it approved the proposed addition of an amending clause in the Act confirming the better-known name.

TH, AUGUST 18, 1926

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey presiding in the unavoidable absence of the chairman (Mr. F. Amoores). There were also present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, J. McLeod, G. M. Spence, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. Horton reported that since his last report the park, together with the sports area, had been maintained in the usual good order and condition. Starting at the lower waterfall bridge, all that area extending to Carrington Road gate and thence southward to the Vogeltown entrance had been thoroughly cleaned up, trees pruned and dug around, and the whole was now in good order. New posts and side rails had been attached to the bridge near the rose border. The trees donated by Mrs. Graham had been planted in prominent and suitable positions and were all doing well. The roses on the pergola in front of the pavilion had been thoroughly pruned,

dressed and dug around. The water lilies for Inglewood Borough Council had been dug out of the lake and were ready to be forwarded. A citizen, who wished to remain anonymous, had generously donated a few days labour to the park, which was very much appreciated. The work of the expert axeman had been completed for this season and he had been paid off. This work would be of immense value in prolonging the life of some of the largest and finest specimen trees in the park, and he would be pleased if further work of this nature could be done next year. He thought he had located the four special trees that were the first planted here, on May 29, 1876, and purposed giving these some special attention. He suggested that tablets giving full particulars be prepared and attached to each tree. The work being done by returned soldiers of getting the mud deposit from the lakes, had been continued with varying success. The plant at their disposal was very good, but not modern or efficient enough to do the work so expeditiously as he would like. He was making inquiries about a centrifugal pump which he was informed was very suitable for this class of work, and would report later. If this was not obtainable, he would suggest that the removal of the large body of mud in the upper lake be deferred until some more efficient and expeditious scheme than they had at present was adopted. There was too much water to allow work in connection with the new lakelet to be gone on with at present, and he suggested the deepening of this be deferred until the dry season, when the permanent staff could complete it at minimum of cost.

Excavation in connection with the fernery was going on very satisfactorily, some 900 yards of clay having been dug out and dumped in the old gully nearby which was being reclaimed with the spoil. There was approximately another 2000 yards to take out, but this would be easier to do, as there would be no stumps or roots to hinder, such as the men had to contend with.

The system and plant used for the removal of the spoil had been quite satisfactory, and there would be sufficient clay to fill in the gully to the necessary depth for laying out, planting and beautifying what had hitherto been an ugly eyesore. The 9ft. protective fence around the fernery site had been completed on three sides, with the exception of two light wire netting gates, which he purposed erecting so as to give easy access to the top area if required.

SERIOUS VANDALISM.

In addition to those trees already named, he had great many names written and ready to be put in position, but he hesitated to do the work, being discouraged by the large percentage that were periodically destroyed or tampered with. He expressed the hope that the public would give every assistance to stop or in some measure check the vandalism.

A pair of Canadian geese had been received from the Hawera Beautifying Society.

Mr. McLeod and the superintendent were authorised to have suitable tablets attached to the four special trees mentioned in Mr. Horton's report.

Messrs. McLeod, Spence and Stainton were appointed a deputation to wait on the Works Committee of the Borough Council with regard to drainage water being led into the lake from Brooklands and Victoria Roads. It was thought that though the gully in the park was a natural watercourse, and no objection could be taken to water being run into it, the council might be able to help the board to clean the silt out.

THE FERNERY.

The Fernery Committee reported: —

The work is progressing satisfactorily, despite several days lost owing to wet weather. Six men were now employed, four on excavation, one on the truck, and one levelling the spoil over the swamp. The first chamber was two-thirds, completed, and the hill above the two rear chambers was stripped to the level of the roof. Over half the total excavation work was completed. The actual work of shaping out the two rear chambers would commence on Thursday, and the whole work of excavation and shaping out should be finished by the middle of October at latest. The ground was ready for the concrete course which was to carry the roof beams, and two-thirds of the timber required was on the ground. The glass should be ordered by cable at once, in order to be here in two months' time. To date £301 14s had been expended, and it was estimated that the cost to complete would be £435, making a total of £735. Towards this sum the board originally voted £300, and the balance was being raised by voluntary efforts.

The Finance Committee reported that the special appeal had resulted in £425 to date, and the hope was expressed that it would ultimately reach £500.

The chairman, congratulated Messrs. McLeod and Spence on the excellent manner in which they had organised the appeal and on the results achieved.

OTHER MATTERS.

The Taranaki District Council of Nurserymen forwarded a cheque for £10 in recognition of Mr. Horton's services at the Hawera Winter Show.

Mr. E. Kretschmar wrote offering a donation of horse-shoe ferns to the park, the offer being accepted with thanks.

TH, AUGUST 23, 1926

MAN MISSING

LETTER TO POLICE SUGGESTION OF SUICIDE

SEARCH PARTY ORGANISED.

Fears for the whereabouts and fate of a man named Norman Gilbert were raised this morning through the receipt of a pencilled letter-card to the Sergeant of Police, New Plymouth, in which it was stated that the body of the writer would be found "in the Rec., at the back of the football ground." A request was also made that the police should communicate with Mr. Elliott, the town clerk of Hawera. The letter was signed

"N. Gilbert," and the postal stamp bore the date August 23.

The circumstances connected with the occurrence appear to suggest that a severe attack of influenza has disturbed the mental balance of the writer of the letter. He appears to have come from Hawera to New Plymouth on Saturday for the purpose of recuperating his health. He was in communication with Mr. V. Elliott, of Barrett Street, on Saturday evening, and was then not in the best of health, though he did not do or say anything that aroused any suspicions such as the note to the police created. He was expected at Mr. Elliott's for tea on Sunday, but failed to put in an appearance, and on inquiry at the Grand Central Hotel, where he was staying, it was learned that he had left there, taking his belongings with him.

A rough search of the park in the vicinity of the football ground was made this morning, and in the meantime further inquiry was made among the man's friends, but no trace of his whereabouts was found. An organised search party went out this afternoon, under the direction of Inspector Murray, for the purpose of thoroughly searching the park.

Mr. Gilbert was a man of about 45 years of age, and was believed to be wearing a dark suit of clothes, a light hat and overcoat, light socks, and black shoes. For some years he was engaged in the profession of dentistry, but gave that up to go farming at Fraser Road, but latterly was thought to have been engaged in business in the Auckland or Hamilton district. He had a severe attack of influenza and a relapse followed, which left him in a weakened state of health.

**TH, AUGUST 30, 1926
GILBERT'S BODY FOUND
FAREWELL MESSAGES.**

The body of Norman Gilbert, who disappeared on the morning of Sunday, August 22, under circumstances pointing to suicide, was found in Pukekura Park on Sunday afternoon by a High School boy named Richard Stewart among some shrubs on the high hill between the path leading up to the racecourse and the big lake. The condition of the body left no doubt as to the way in which the unfortunate man had ended his life. The body was lying on its back and there was a deep cut across the neck and the left arm, and nearby an open razor was found, as though it had fallen out of the right hand. The man's suitcase and coat were found close to where he was lying, the latter having apparently been taken off after the fatal wound in the neck had been inflicted, as it was stained with blood and had been folded up and placed a little distance away from where the body was lying. The suitcase also showed that the razor had been used on it, as on one side there were eight or nine cuts, some of which had gone right through the leather and the lining. A cigarette holder with a partly smoked cigarette in it was also lying close by Gilbert's body. There was no trace of a rug, which it was believed Gilbert had taken away with

him when he left the Grand Central Hotel on the Sunday morning.

Amongst other effects on deceased's person was a letter written in pencil and enclosed in a sealed envelope, addressed in pencil, as follows:—"To those who find my body. (Sgd.) N.W.G." The brief note inside ran: "So sorry this had to happen. It had to be. Please forgive me, all. Love and au revoir to all my dear people and dear friends. (Sgd.) N. Gilbert."

Another letter among the deceased's belongings suggested the same intention of taking his own life, but this intimated that it was his intention to act on Saturday. A sum of £3 5s 11d was found among the belongings, also some correspondence, receipts and tobacco.

An inquest was opened on Sunday evening, before Mr. R. W. Tate, S. M., district coroner, when formal evidence of identification was given by Mr. Victor Elliott and the proceedings were adjourned until Wednesday afternoon.

It has since been learned that the late Mr. Gilbert came to New Plymouth on the Friday afternoon and stayed the first night at the White Hart Hotel, moving to the Grand Central on Saturday. He left there about 8.30 on the Sunday morning, after breakfast, and the first intimation of any suspicious circumstances was a letter received by the Sergeant of Police on the Monday morning to the effect that his body would be found in the "Rec." at the back of the football grounds. The police and a few citizens made a search on Monday, but failed to find any trace of the body.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 22, 1926
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING**

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Dempsey presiding in the unavoidable absence of the chairman, Mr. F. Amore. There were also present: C. E. Bellringer, M.P., R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary), and the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. Horton reported that since his last report a new wire fence had been erected in Victoria Street to replace the old dilapidated one, which extended from the entrance to the old cottage to the croquet greens. Another new fence had been erected on the Brooklands Road boundary, extending from the gateway to the bend in the road. Four extra seats had been put up, providing extra seating accommodation for about 30 people. The essential pruning had been completed for this season, and the planting of extra trees was almost finished. A new path had been formed and metalled near the kiosk, and all lawns top-dressed and renovated. The borders on John Street walk, and also those on the Gilbert Street walk, had been thoroughly overhauled and dug, and were now in good order. The Vogelstown entrance had also been considerably improved. The returned soldiers who had been employed in clearing the upper lake area had been

paid off and the work discontinued. The work of excavation on the fernery site had been carried on satisfactorily, and the spoil which was being dumped in the adjacent swamp would be quite sufficient to ensure the successful laying out of this area. Cement, shingle and essential material had been secured and delivered on the job. Two cases of water lilies were sent to the Hawera Council as arranged, and a case of plants had been secured from Palmerston North. Top-dressing and other work was now being done on the sports area, and when the football season was over grass seed would be sown on the new terraces, and other essential work in this area would be attended to. A tender for the laying on of the water to the fernery site was accepted, and the work had been completed.

Thanks were accorded to the Palmerston North donor.

THE FERNERY.

The Fernery Committee reported that work had proceeded steadily during the past month with the excavation of the chambers and the filling of the swamp. The rough excavation of the north-west chamber was now completed, and the concrete base for the roof around this Chamber was also complete. The rough excavation of the south-west chamber was about half finished, and the concrete base for the roof around it was about half finished. The excavation of the eastern chamber was about one-third finished, and the concrete base for the roof around it had not yet been commenced. During the month the water had been laid on to the fernery with two hose taps, at a cost of £10 5s.

A meeting of the Voluntary Committee was held during the month, when it was resolved to make the following recommendations to the board: (1) That the completion of the excavation of the chambers, when the rough excavation is finished, be delayed until the roofing and glassing are finished, Mr. Holmes undertaking to complete the excavation and shaping of the chambers when the roof is on. (2) That the board be requested to expedite the delivery of the glass, with a view to the roof being completed at the earliest possible date. (3) That the board provide temporary shelter for ferns as sent in.

The Voluntary Committee had already put in hand the matter of arranging for the collection of ferns for the fernery, and these would be planted out in a nursery as received, in readiness for transplanting into the fernery as soon as it was ready to receive them.

The Fernery Committee expected that the rough shaping of the chambers would be finished at the end of next week, and recommended that further work be suspended until such time as the glass was received and the roof completed.

The superintendent had arranged for the temporary planting of the area filled in in the swamp immediately.

It would expedite matters if the arrangements could be made for the immediate supply of sufficient 12in. pipes to take the water (at present

flowing through a temporary ditch) under the approach to the fernery, so that this part of the work might be completed before the men at present engaged on the fernery, were discharged.

It was stated that the glass for the roof had been ordered by cable, but that it was not likely to arrive here before Christmas.

Authority was given to order pipes referred to in the report.

The Finance Committee reported that up to the present £408 2s had been expended on the fernery, including £122 16s 6d for material. The cost of cleaning the upper lake had been £133 7s 3d, of which the board received approximately £68 from the Returned Soldiers' Association by way of subsidy.

It was decided to invite Mr. E. Maxwell to become a member of the Fernery Committee.

OTHER MATTERS.

A letter was received from the chairman (Mr. Amoores), who is on a health trip to Helensville, stating that he was making rapid progress towards complete recovery, and that he hoped to be present at the October meeting of the board.

It was decided to hold a fireworks display at the park on November 5, and the general arrangements were left in the hands of the Finance Committee.

The matter of arranging for a series of concerts at the park during the summer months was discussed, and it was decided to form a special committee for the purpose.

TH, OCTOBER 20, 1926

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. F. Amoores (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, M.P., W. F. Short, G. M. Spence; A. T. Moore, C. Hughes, J. McLeod and T. Horton (superintendent). Apologies were received from Messrs. W. C. Weston and P. E. Stainton.

The superintendent reported that the excavation for the fernery house construction had been completed as far as it was advisable to do so before the carpentry work and glazing was done. The concrete foundations were also finished. Two large light gates had been made and hung in the protective fence so as to give access to the fernery site from the hill if at any time required. Mr. Holmes and his staff would finish all that was advisable to do on the fernery work this week. All hands were at present engaged in digging drains and pipe laying in connection with the scheme for draining the racecourse gully. This was a most important and necessary work and when completed would be not only a good job, but permanent. A large bed had been made in the centre of the gully recently reclaimed and planted with over one hundred cannas in great variety, and a border 6ft. wide leading to the fernery entrance had been laid out and was being planted.

A pair of black swans had been received from the Mayor of Wanganui and had

been liberated on the lower lake and appeared to be very contented in their new home. One man had been fully employed on the sports area preparing cricket pitches, cutting grass, opening up drains and other necessary work. The new terraces in the sports ground had been top-dressed and re-sown with grass. Heavy rains this month had caused a good deal of blockage in drains and water-tables and cut the paths about badly in many places. It had been necessary to give a good deal of attention to this particular work. Two yards of shingle had been secured for maintenance work, but more would be required to repair the damage thoroughly. Extra seating accommodation had been provided for about eighty people. He acknowledged the gift of tree ferns from Messrs. Earp Bros., of Vogeltown. These would be very helpful, particularly in connection with work at the fernery.

The chairman explained that when visiting Wanganui recently he had approached the Mayor of that city, suggesting that a pair of black swans would be very acceptable to the board, and Mr. Gibbons had very readily agreed to make this gift to the park.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Mayor of Wanganui for his gift and it was decided to offer a pair of Muscovy ducks to Wanganui.

A vote of thanks was also accorded to Messrs. Earp Bros. for their gift.

The chairman reported that improved facilities had been provided at the tea kiosk in order to enable those in charge to better cope with the large number of visitors requiring afternoon tea.

Mr. Spence reported that arrangements had been made for laying a pipe drain near the fernery to carry away storm water from the racecourse. The cost would be about £100 and would be defrayed by the Jockey Club, the Park Board to do the work.

Mr. Spence reported that a party representing the Fernery Committee visited the Koru district on Saturday last and had secured a very nice collection of ferns, etc., for the fernery. He also mentioned that Messrs. V. C. and R. Davies had offered to obtain a collection of ferns from the Bay of Plenty and other North Island districts which they intended to visit shortly. The board decided to take advantage of the offer, and a sum not exceeding £5 was voted for this purpose.

With regard to the recommendation of the finance committee of the board that all bands giving recitals in the park should be charged 15 per cent. of their collections, the board to reciprocate by allowing a rebate of 15 per cent. on collections taken up at band concerts given in order to augment the park funds, it was reported that the proposal was not popular with the band committees, and it was resolved to defer consideration of the matter until a meeting of the board when there were more members present. The band concert arranged for next Sunday will be given on the old terms.

TDN, NOVEMBER 9, 1926

FIREWORKS AND GUYS

A BRILLIANT EXHIBITION

HUGE ROCKETS AND CLUSTERS.

Guys! Was there ever such a queer, grotesque collection in the streets of New Plymouth before? Thirty of them assembled at the Post Office last night to be marched through the streets to Pukekura Park, and any one of them would have been sufficient to make Mr. Fawkes turn in his grave in horror. However, ugly as they were, they had hundreds of admirers, who watched their progress through the streets and followed them to the recreation ground in such large numbers that a sum of over £120 was taken at the gates in aid of the park board's funds. Inside the grounds the terraces were lined with people who were treated to a brilliant display of fireworks by Mr. J. Hopkins, on behalf of the Wainoni Park Company.

Originality is by no means lacking in the youth of the town, judging by the weird effigies lined up at the Post Office. Some were giants, some were pigmies. One, in better circumstances than his fellows, rode bravely to his doom on a gaily decorated bicycle. Evidently he did feel a trifle limp at the prospect, however, for it was noticed that he was tenderly supported by several solicitous attendants. A few were prostrated at the awful fate in front of them, and they had to be carried on makeshift stretchers, but the majority sat jauntily in their chariots and were drawn along at a merry pace by merry little men, one of whom was half horse, half boy.

SOME NOVEL EFFIGIES.

But the saddest sight of all and, it must be admitted, the most popular, was a jack-tar swinging to and fro from a gibbet. Poor fellow! He had apparently long since paid the price of his sins and no one repented his death. He was actually the butt of jokes and none laughed more heartily than his hardened executioner in a costume befitting his office. Some of the guys had more life in them than this well-strangled fellow, however. They were properly alive and gazed through hideous masks at the people around. They were not put on the fire after the fireworks display, it is reported. Red Indians, armed to the teeth with tomahawks and other dangerous things, kept vigilant guard over one image, while a precautionary measure adopted to prevent the escape of others was a seat on a keg of gunpowder.

When the procession moved off down Devon Street it was headed by the Pipe Band. Then came the guys and their attendants, followed by the large fire engine and helmeted firemen bearing torches and Roman candles of various hues. The small fire engine brought up the rear.

On arrival at the park the procession marched round the recreation ground, while the judging took place. The result was:—

R. Doughty, B. Love, K. Johnson	1
V. Okey and F. Whitaker	2
D. Bolton, C. Bolton, T. Bolton	3
Allen Bell, Harry Bell and Tombs	4

Doughty, who won the prize last year, was in charge of a huge guy drawn by three harnessed attendants, one of whom was half-horse, half boy. The second prize went to the exhibitors of the sailor on the gibbet. The owners of all the other guys are to receive consolation prizes, which they may collect on calling at the office of Mr. P. E. Stainton.

BRILLIANT PYROTECHNICS.

The fireworks display then commenced. Giant rockets shot high in the air with a roar and then burst into a hundred brilliant stars that fell to earth like golden serpents whose tails were made of fire. A waterfall of flames poured banks of sparks to the ground and every now and then shot bright fireballs high into the air, to come to rest halfway across the oval. A canon belched, forth fire from which emerged with amazing regularity great glowing bolts that came to rest long distances away. In action it resembled nothing so much as an angry howitzer. Huge parachutes reversed the order of things and leapt from the ground with loud reports to rise high up above the terraces and dissolve in showers of sparks and different coloured stars that floated gently earthwards.

It was a wonderful display and novelty followed novelty till the crowd hardly knew what to expect next. If it grew tired of rockets that rose from 200 to 500 feet in the air, it had plenty to interest it in clusters of Catherine wheels that twisted in a brilliant orbit and threw out thousands of bright particles, or fountains of fire, or geysers, or Prince of Wales feathers. When the words "Good night" emerged from a bright constellation of moving light of many colours it signified the close of a fine evening's entertainment. But it was not good night to hundreds of small boys who gathered round a great bonfire in the south-eastern corner and watched the guys burn merrily.

TH, NOVEMBER 17, 1926

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

At the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board held, on Tuesday evening there were present: Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, R. C. Hughes, G. M. Spence, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. J. McLeod, and C. E. Bellringer, M.P.

In presenting his monthly report, the superintendent stated that the men engaged on the fernery excavation work had been paid off. The work had not been completed, as it was not advisable to do more until the glass roofs had been erected. The whole fernery area had been wired and looked up until such time as the work could be completed. The balance of the American cedar on order was now being delivered, and would be stacked as directed by the chairman.

The main drain from the racecourse gully, running immediately at the back of the kiosk, had been laid, and the water diverted from the old drain into it, and instead of the outlet being in the lake as the old one was, it was now running into

the drain below the bridge over the main lake outlet. He had connected the three drains from the kiosk with this new main drain, and the whole scheme was a great improvement on that which formerly existed. That portion of the old open drain which existed on the right-hand side of the pathway to the men's lavatory had been filled in, and on the site a new rockery built and planted with ferns. A new punga screen had been erected in front of the lavatory here, and what had hitherto been an ugly spot was now ornamental and attractive.

Flowering annuals had been put in where necessary, a considerable quantity of dead branches and rubbish had been collected and stacked in one corner of the sports ground for the bonfire which was lit on the night of the fireworks display. The gorse in Victoria Street, near the tennis courts, had all been cut and burned. On account of the very greasy nature of the centre bush path at its southern end, they had put in quite a number of steps and metalled the worst parts. He purposed extending this work as opportunity offered.

On October 21 they received the first batch of ferns for the new fernery. These were temporarily growing in a corner of the nursery until such time as they could be transplanted to their permanent positions.

The necessary work of general maintenance had been done, but on account of excessive wet and stormy conditions, there had been much more to do than was usual.

Sports Ground. —On account of the main drain becoming blocked, a considerable amount of extra work had to be done on this area. Mr. Noble had been fully employed here during the whole month, and with the extra labour provided by the sports committee, the work of putting in several concrete examination pits and sumps, together with re-laying a part of the drain, had been completed, and further trouble from this source was not expected. The necessary cutting, rolling and preparation of cricket pitches had been attended to, the open ditch at the far side cleaned out, and that portion of the board's property was in good order and condition.

The boat returns were below the average. No doubt on account of the inclemency of the weather.

In spite of postponements and the uncertain weather, it was reported that the fireworks' display held on November 6 had returned a profit of between £35 and £40.

An offer was received from Messrs. Duncan and Davies to shelter the more delicate specimens of the fine collection of native ferns made by them in conjunction with Mr. Maxwell on a recent trip, until next autumn, which would be the most suitable season for transplanting. The offer was accepted with thanks for the generous spirit in which it was made.

In regard to the recommendation made by the finance committee at a previous meeting that bands using the park for recitals should contribute 15 per cent. of

their takings in return for a rebate of 15 per cent. on collections taken up at band concerts given in aid of the park funds, it was mentioned that the bands had offered to give to additional benefit concerts each in place of the suggested 15 per cent. —The offer was accepted.

TH, DECEMBER 21, 1926

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Monday evening, Mr. F. Amoore (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, M.P., W. C. Weston, G. M. Spence, J. McLeod, A. T. Moore and T. Horton (park superintendent).

Mr. Horton reported that during the month the usual work of maintaining the park in good order had been done and the park was now looking well, the iris, rose and other beds having produced an abundance of bloom, which had been very attractive. The three boats had been cleaned and painted. All were given two coats of snow white zinc, both inside and out. Sixteen seats had also been painted, and the balance would be done as opportunity offered. At this season of the year grass, fennel and other noxious weeds grew profusely and the staff was dealing with them as best it could. All grass paths were kept constantly cut and were in good condition. The azalea corner had been mowed and trees hoed and cleaned around, as also had most of the newly planted trees. On the sports ground area grass on some of the terraces had been cut, sand and top-dressing had been applied, a concrete water channel put in, and new concrete steps were now being built to replace the decayed wooden structure just inside the main entrance and giving access to the playing field. The entertainment of the old people and children by the Red Cross and other societies on Saturday last was a happy and pleasant function, at which all the board's staff assisted.

It was reported that six seats had been donated to the park, and the hope was expressed that other residents interested in the park would assist in this connection.

Quotations were received from several firms for seats, and these were referred to a committee to notify the donors.

A lengthy letter was received from Lieut. F. W. G. McLeod with reference to a proposed concert in the park by the Military Band at Christmas time, and the matter was left in the hands of Mr. J. McLeod to arrange.

The chairman reported that it had been officially brought under his notice that tennis was being played on the park tennis courts on Sundays, this being contrary to the terms of the lease. He had accordingly drawn the club's attention to the matter. The chairman's action was confirmed.

The secretary presented a statement of the financial position as at December 20, and stressed the urgent necessity for raising more revenue in order to meet the liabilities of the board.

The chairman said it was essential the board should have more revenue, and

also drew attention to the urgent need of a caretaker's residence in the park, as the vandalism that went on at times was deplorable.

The opinion was expressed that an effort should be made to secure an increased subsidy from the Borough Council, and with this object in view it was agreed that a deputation wait on the council

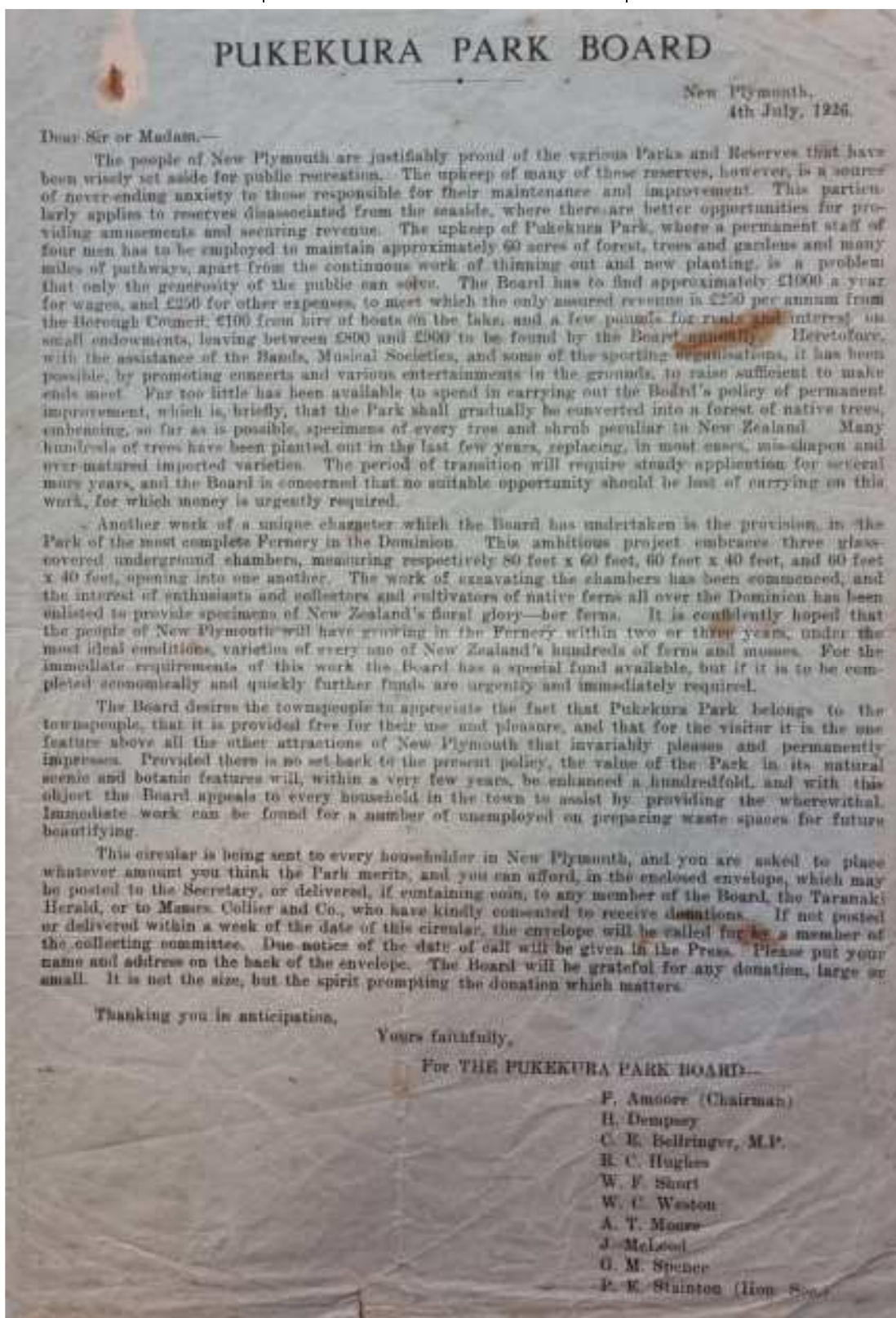
before next year's estimates were framed.

Mr. McLeod expressed the opinion that the time had arrived when a rate should be struck for the maintenance of the park.

It was decided to write the members of the board's staff conveying the season's greetings, and to donate the usual

Christmas bonus.

The chairman referred in eulogistic terms to the work of the staff, which had been done faithfully and well. The park had never looked better than it did today, thanks to the untiring efforts of the staff.



Pukekura Park Improvements Fund Appeal Circular (Puke Ariki ARC2003-860/3)

1927

Pukekura Park hosted its second royal visit of the 1920s. This time it was the Duke and Duchess of York, who on the abdication of Edward VIII came to the throne as George VI and Queen Elizabeth the parents of Queen Elizabeth II.

The glass for the fernery arrived at the end of February 1927 and tenders were sought for the roof construction. The contract was won by Mr. F. Hartnell with a quote of £90. Once the roof was complete Mr. Hartnell and his team returned to finish the inside excavation. By mid-July construction of the fernery was completed and planting commenced. In total 2,340 ferns were planted, consisting of 145 species. The walls of the rooms were terraced to make it easier to display the plants. Large rocks and a water feature were added to exhibit the ferns as naturally as possible. A controversial aspect of the fernery was the addition of punga posts to prop up the roof, these had not been part of the original design and impacted on the paths inside the fernery. A door to the fernery was kindly donated and installed by Fred Parker who was a builder by trade. The building of the fernery was the beginning of a long relationship between the park and Fred Parker.

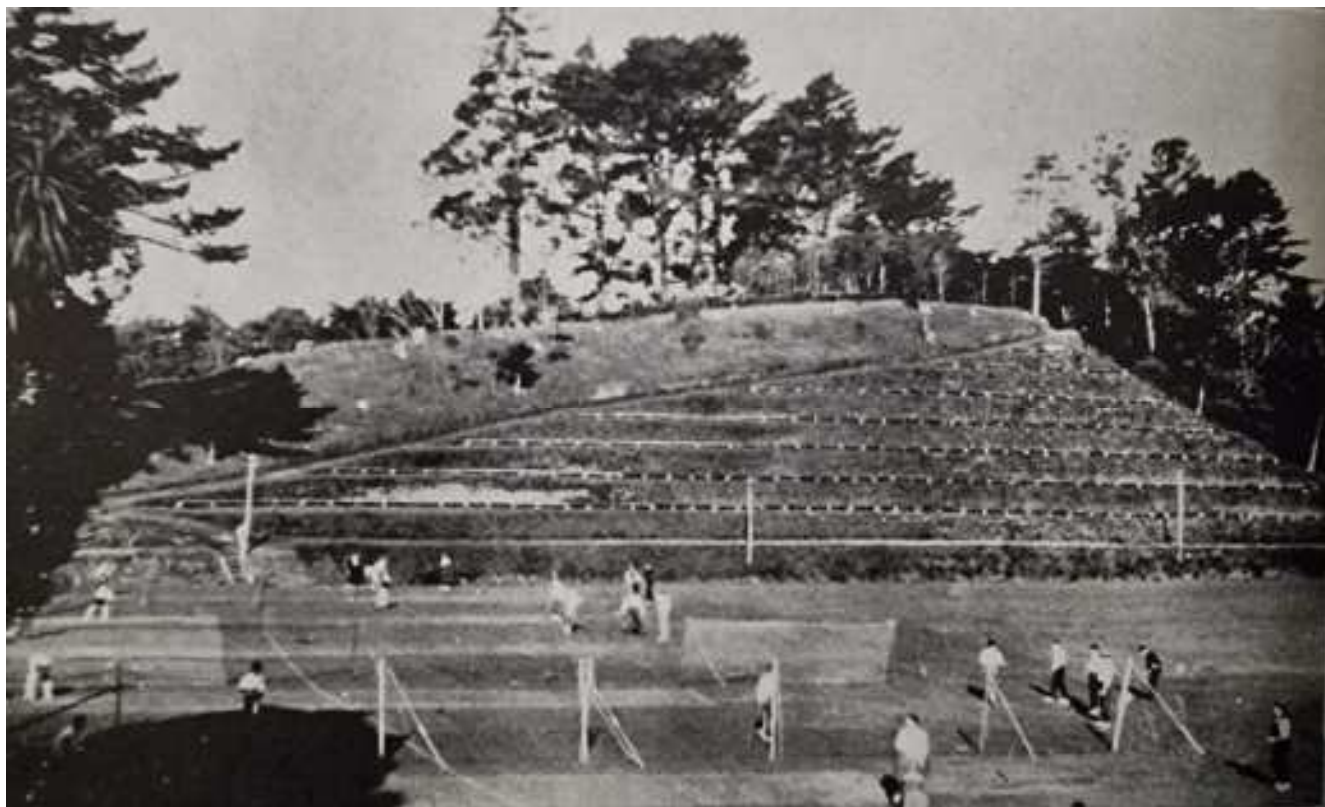
By this time the landscaping outside was complete. There was a lawn, flower beds, and a rose pergola. The new lakelet up in the valley was finished hosting water lilies and three islands, each island planted with a tree at its centre, a rimu, kauri and Halls totara.

The board was finding it increasingly more difficult to finance the running of the park and vesting of the park in the Borough Council was again on the table. Following a conference between the board and the council it was agreed that the council would take over the control of the park and strike a rate for its upkeep. An important agreement was reached that any bequest made to the park would be used for permanent improvements only. A petition that Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, be vested in the borough and come under the control of the council, and that the present board be abolished, was drafted.

Following the death of Mr. Newton King a £3000 bequest was left to Pukekura Park, it was suggested that this money be invested for several years, and the interest used to build a new teahouse.

Plant Donations Included:

Mr. Morshead, multiple fern donations; Mr. Wheeler, flowering shrubs and fern collection; Duncan & Davies, 25 varieties of fern; Mr. R. Wells, of Huirangi, ferns; Mrs. Mason, of Westown, *Lomaria alpina*; other donators of ferns included: Mr. W. Besley, Mr. L. S. Mackie (Otakeho), Dr. R. Nairn (Hastings), J. H. Frethey, Mrs. J. Wheeler, Mrs. Lovell (Hawera); Mr. B. Sladden (Tauranga), *Pteris comans*; Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell; Mr Aldridge, maples etc.; Mr. Tunnycliffe, trees.



Cricket Practice. *Taranaki Herald Xmas Special*, December 17, 1927

Taranaki Herald, March 3, 1927

ROYAL VISITORS Duke and Duchess of York in Taranaki.

Demonstrative Welcome in Capital Town.

Huge Crowd at Pukekura Park.

Rain Spoils Spectacular Effect.

Visitors win the Hearts of the Populace.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York paid their official visit to Taranaki to-day, making the capital town of New Plymouth the starting point for the tour through the province. In expectation of the visit, the town had been gaily beflagged, and the streets were thronged with people from all parts of the district, eager to give the Royal pair a warm-hearted welcome to New Plymouth.



Dull weather marred the spectacular effect of the arrangements at Pukekura Park, where the civic reception took place, but the rain held off during the ceremonies, and everything passed off successfully, the people's welcome to the Duke and Duchess being of a demonstrative character.

After the official part of the programme had been concluded, the visitors passed through the lines of the units drawn up on the sports ground area, and each in turn cheered them heartily. The Duke made himself popular with the Boy Scouts in particular and the crowd in general by paying the boys the compliment of walking across the bridge they had erected as a demonstration of their practical handiwork. The Duchess was a model of charm and grace, and won the hearts of all by her delightful manner.

The whole of the proceedings were marked with uncommon



Plymouth.

A MEMORABLE SCENE.

The scene as the Royal car entered the Sportsground after traversing the beautiful drive along the lakeside from Gilbert Street was a memorable one. Some had waited on the seats on the terraces for over an hour, while the green sward was covered by the host of children from the Boys' and Girls' High Schools and the primary schools; assembled in a mass in the centre, together with Girl Guides, Girl Citizens, Brownies,

Boy Scouts, Cubs, Returned Soldiers, Veterans and the guard of honour of 100 territorials and the two New Plymouth bands.

On the eastern terrace a number of Girls' High School pupils formed the word "Welcome," more distinct as one was the farther away. This was what struck the eye first as one entered the ground from the western side. The moment the Royal car came in sight, excited murmurs burst forth from 10,000 throats. The children increased it to a high-pitched roar as the car commenced to move around the turf to the dais at the northern end, and the youngsters cheered, with hats and coats flying in the air, formed a scene that will live in the memory when other incidents may have been forgotten.



The cheering continued unabated as their Highnesses proceeded to the dais, and was responsible for many not hearing the Regimental Band strike up the National Anthem as the Guard of Honour came to the present. Dismounting from their car, the Duke and Duchess were again met by the Mayor. His Highness immediately inspected the guard, which was under the command of Lieutenant J. Sillitoe, while the Duchess, amidst more applause, took her seat with the Mayor on the platform to await the civic reception.

THROUGH RANKS OUTBURSTS OF DEMONSTRATIVE ENTHUSIASM.

The ceremony on the platform, which had been roofed over with an awning, did not deprive the thousands on the terraces of the presence of the Royal guests for long. Immediately the presentation of guests was completed their Royal Highnesses descended to the ground and spent the best part of half an hour amongst the children.

CHATting WITH WAR VETERANS

About, 30 Maori War and South African veterans and about 100 returned soldiers were assembled on the eastern side of the dais and passing through the ranks the Duke shook hands with each one and spent some time chatting freely amongst them. In the meantime the Duchess had been greeted by the Brownies and also inspected the Girl

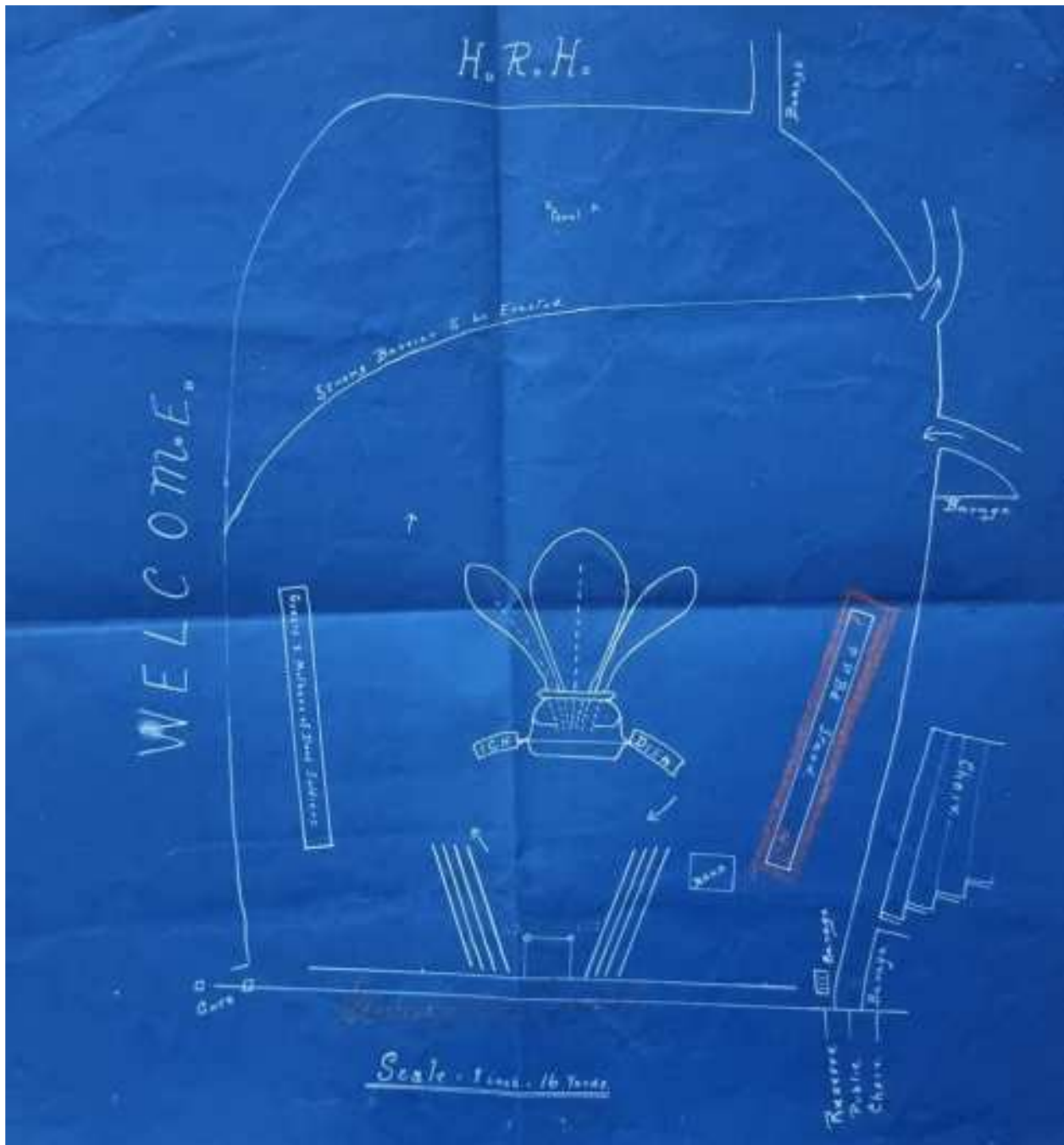
Guides and Girl Citizens, displaying keen interest in their work.



Passing on and all the time graciously acknowledging the applause from the terraces that followed their movements, the Duke and Duchess next visited a number of cars containing invalids which were drawn up on the eastern side, and immediately after that were encircled by the cub-scouts, who chanted their greeting to the evident amusement and relish of the Royal couple at the centre of the ring. After inspecting the scouts the Duke raised another

popular cheer when despite the precarious foothold offered by the wet planks, he walked over the temporary bridge which the Scouts had erected on the ground. They then passed along the ranks of the High School girls, and having a little more time left spent it amongst the High School boys and primary schools, who, heartily supported from the terraces, burst forth into further ringing cheers.

Pictures, *Auckland Weekly News*, March 10, 1927



Plan for the civic reception for the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York held in the sportsground at Pukekura Park. The word “welcome” was formed on the eastern terrace by a number of Girls' High School pupils which could be seen by the Royal couple as their motorcade entered the grounds opposite the terraces by the lower lake. (Puke Ariki ARC2003-862/1)

TH, JANUARY 19, 1927

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. F. Amoore (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, C. E. Bellringer, M.P., W. F. Short, A. T. Moore and P. E. Stainton (secretary). Mr. T. Horton (park superintendent) was also present.

An apology was received from Mr. W. C. Weston.

The superintendent, in his monthly report, said there was nothing of a very special nature to refer to, the work of the month being mostly that of general maintenance. During the holiday season a record number of tourists visited the park, and without exception were loud in their appreciation of its beauty. There had been times when quite a large number of cars came in and parked near the sports pavilion whilst the visitors looked around, and the traffic at times had been quite congested. If there was much increase in this traffic some consideration would have to be given to the matter of how best to find increased accommodation, unless visitors were to leave their cars in the street.

The boats on the lake had been very well patronised since the fine weather came and the returns compared favourably with other years.

In addition to the usual cricket in the sportsground the big match Hawke's Bay v. Taranaki was played, and the ground was in use on three separate days for this match. The preparation of the pitch had necessitated quite a lot of extra work. The outfield and terraces were all overhauled and put in good order. One extra man was engaged to assist with this work, his wages being paid by the Sports Committee.

The chairman reported that the glass for the roof of the fernery was on board the Rimutaka, which was due here towards the end of February.

TDN, FEBRUARY 16, 1927

One of the prettiest corners of Pukekura Park at the present time is the gully alongside the new fernery, which only a short time ago was an unsightly swamp. The feature of the gully is a circular bed of cannas brilliant with the wealth of colour of the exceptionally fine blooms. The bed is certainly a credit to the superintendent of the park (Mr. T. Horton).

TH, FEBRUARY 23, 1927

**PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING
URGENT NEED OF REVENUE.**

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), J. McLeod, W. C. Weston, G. M. Spence, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent).

Mr. Horton reported that the work during the month had been principally that of general maintenance. Most of the grass on the hill above the native bush area had been mowed and burned, also the grass on the hill on the eastern side of John

Street walk, and that portion at the head of the gully near the rhododendron dell. The long island beyond the large lake had been thoroughly overhauled, trees trimmed where necessary and dead trees and branches removed. Noxious weeds on the roadside of the board's property from Brooklands to the foot of Victoria Road had been cut or grubbed out. The overhanging growth and noxious weeds adjacent to footpaths on the sections at the corner of Liardet and Gilbert Streets had been removed. All grass paths and grass banks adjacent to the paths had been periodically cut and the main roads and paths constantly kept in good order. All flower-beds and borders had been regularly hoed and kept free of weeds, and overhanging branches on the Gilbert Street drive had been cut back. As the Gilbert Street drive had been chosen for the entrance to the park for the Duke and Duchess of York and party, he proposed to give particular attention to all necessary work along the roadway.

The playing area on the sportsground had been regularly mown and rolled, cricket pitches prepared and all essential work in this area had been done. The work necessitated one man devoting the whole of his time to the sportsground, besides occasional help from the rest of the staff or casual labour. Sixty-eight cases of glass had been delivered to the park for use in the roof of the fernery. It was apparently in good order and of excellent quality.

The boats had been well patronised and the receipts from this source had been better than usual.

The feature of the park, had been the bed of cannas in the gully near the fernery. They were still looking well, and were a source of attraction to all who had seen them.

Several members said how much the bed of cannas near the path leading to the racecourse had been admired by visitors. They had undoubtedly made a very fine picture, and were still looking very well indeed.

It was decided to obtain tenders for the construction and glazing of the roof of the fernery.

The secretary reported that the glass had cost about £97, this being several pounds under the estimate.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. C. E. Bellringer, M.P., for his services in connection with the purchase of glass for the fernery.

It was decided to proceed with the work of forming the lakelet in the gully near the fernery, and the superintendent was authorised to engage an extra man for a fortnight.

The secretary explained that Mr. F. Parker had very kindly thrown his fernery open for public inspection, and that a collection box he had there had resulted in a sum of £4 13s 1d being handed over to the board for expenditure on the fernery. Mr. Parker had also expressed his willingness, when the actual construction of the fernery was far enough advanced, to give a fortnight of his time to assisting in laying out the fernery.

Thanks were extended to Mr. Parker for his interest in the fernery and for his offer of assistance.

It was also decided to invite Mr. Parker to accept office on the fernery Committee.

Mr. Horton reported that since Christmas the boats on the upper lake had earned approximately £71.

FINANCE.

The secretary submitted a statement of, the board's financial position showing the following credits:- Burgess trust fund, £390 1s 9d; New Plymouth Savings Bank (including estimated interest), £150; Bank of New Zealand £20; borough subsidy (March), £52 10s. The estimated weekly cost of maintenance was £30. It would be seen, therefore, said Mr. Stainton, that it was imperative something should be done at once to provide revenue. The money in hand would be exhausted very soon, and funds would have to be provided by some means or other in order that the ordinary maintenance of the park should be continued. The park had never looked better than it did at present, but the work had grown to such an extent that it was impossible to carry on as they had been doing in the past. The time had arrived when the board should have an assured income sufficient to cover the cost of maintenance at least.

The chairman reported having interviewed the Borough Council with a request that it increase the subsidy to the park. He had explained to the council the financial position of the board and the urgent necessity for increased revenue if the park was to be maintained in its present condition. He had been given very sympathetic hearing, and while he had no official information, he understood the council had agreed to an additional subsidy of £100.

The chairman, during a general discussion, stressed the absolute necessity for inaugurating some scheme for immediately raising funds. The present method of financing the work of the park was most unsatisfactory.

Various schemes were suggested, and a committee was appointed to go into the whole question.

In the meantime Mr. Spence was authorised to interview Mr. R. L. Cooper with a view to arranging a number of concerts to provide for the immediate needs of the board. It was explained that the two bands each had two concerts to give for the benefit of the park, and that these would be arranged as soon as possible after their return from the contest.

TH, MARCH 19, 1927

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Thursday evening, there being present: Messrs. F. Amoore (in the chair), R. C. Hughes, H. Dempsey, G. M. Spence, W. C. Weston and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

The chairman reported that leave of absence had been granted to the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) for the

purpose of judging at the Hawke's Bay Show.

Mr. Spence reported that he had conferred with Mr. Cooper, who had undertaken to approach Mr. F. C. Ferry with a view to arranging some concerts by the bands and other people for the benefit of the park.

The tender of Mr. F. Hartnell, of £90, for the glass work and roofing of the fernery, was accepted, and the work will be put in hand at once.

The secretary reported on the conference of various bodies on the question of the upkeep of the public reserves, and that as the outcome of that meeting a deputation had waited upon the council. The result was the setting up of a committee to go into the matter fully after the borough polls, the idea being that a rate for the purpose should be struck by the new council. The amounts spent on public reserves in different places were stated to be as follow: Christchurch, £14,000 per annum; Palmerston North, £2730; Wellington, £26,000; Auckland, £23,600; so that New Plymouth's requirement of £2000 was not considered to be an extravagant amount. It was pointed out that the board was an administrative body and not an organisation for canvassing for money.

Mr. Stainton said he had approached the football clubs in New Plymouth for assistance in the direction of arranging benefit practice matches for the park. The Old Boys had signified their willingness to help, and suggested the arrangement of a match between themselves and the High School.

Correspondence was received from the Wellington Reserves Protection and Improvement Society, suggesting that all public reserves should be placed under the control of a Reserves Board.

It was decided to explain in reply that the Park Board was the controlling authority so far as Pukekura Park was concerned, but that it had no proper or definite source of revenue.

Permission was granted to the Male Choir to have the use of the band stand for a concert on Sunday evening.

The No. 2 Troop of Central Boy Scouts wrote thanking the board for the use of the cottage and grounds for camping purposes, and they offered to do anything they could to assist the board, in order to show their appreciation of the consideration extended to them.

The Oamaru Beautifying Society wrote calling attention to the disfigurement of roadsides and rural scenery by the creation of unsightly advertisement hoardings. In this connection Mr. Spence drew attention to the railway hoarding at Strandon, which blotted out the only view of the sea at this locality.

It was decided to support the movement for the doing away of these disfigurements.

The first Tuesday in each month was fixed as the regular meeting night, the next meeting to be held on the first Tuesday in May.

Accounts amounting to £5 2s 5d were passed for payment.

TDN, APRIL 1, 1927

CRICKET WICKET TRIALS

The two truck loads of Longburn soil ordered by the North Taranaki executive of the Taranaki Cricket Association arrived in New Plymouth recently and have now been spread in a selected position of the horseshoe bend alongside the Pukekura Park sportsground, levelled and rolled out, and sown with Red Top and Cheving's Fescue. The plot is 28 feet long by 19 feet wide, and by next spring it is hoped it will be a well knit turf. As soon as the football season is over, the turf will be cut up and transported to the middle of the sportsground, there to be re-laid so as to make two wickets, while the turf it replaces will be taken to the horseshoe bend. The groundsman (Mr. Noble) is taking particular care with the experiment and expects that by interchanging the turf at the end of each succeeding cricket and football season he will be able to ensure splendid cricket wickets for many years to come.

TH, APRIL 26, 1927

"LEST WE FORGET"

IN MEMORY OF THE ANZACS

Whose Glory Will Never Die"

IMPRESSIVE COMMEMORATION

SERVICE AT NEW PLYMOUTH

LARGEST GATHERING ON RECORD

If anything was needed to demonstrate that the memory of Anzac and all that word means is an imperishable one, that



Puke ArikaARC2008-322

proof was given in the huge gathering of citizens at Pukekura Park on Monday morning for the service of commemoration, when reverent and impressive homage was paid to the men who braved the great adventure of April 25, 1915, and to those who fighting fell in the cause of freedom. The thought has sometimes been expressed that with the passing of the years the observance of Anzac Day would gradually sink into oblivion, but if such a thought found a place in the mind of any who gathered at the park on Monday it must have instantly perished when the great crowd of citizens and the splendid parade was seen assembled on the playing area and the terraced surroundings. The bright sunshine lent warmth and colour to the occasion, which has not often been a characteristic of such celebrations in New Plymouth.

The military parade, which was under the command of Lieut. Colonel Jardine, D.S.O., M.C., commanding officer of the First Taranaki Regiment, consisted of 27 officers and 1257 other ranks,

while the other units included in the parade brought the total strength to 34 officers and 2427 other ranks. The total attendance of public and parade is estimated in the vicinity of 10,000 and was the largest that has ever gathered for such an occasion.

TH, MAY 4, 1927

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. F. Amore, chairman, presiding.

There were also present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, M.P., R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, J. McLeod, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent). An apology was received from Mr. G. M. Spence, who is indisposed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. Horton reported that since his last report the usual work of park maintenance had been done. In addition to this, and as opportunity offered, they had pushed on with the improvement, scheme being carried out in the gully leading to the racecourse. The upper lake in this gully had been thoroughly cleaned out, and work on the new lakelet, had been pushed on with and was now well advanced. A portion of the bank in this gully has already been dug and prepared for planting, and the three islands in the lakelet were now almost completed. It was his intention to plant more mamaku and other native plants here, and, in fact, fill up all available spaces with native and other suitable trees. In connection with the fernery Mr. Horton reported that the contractor had completed the erection of the framework of, the three glasshouses, and the last coat of paint was now being put on. As soon as the painting was finished the glass would be put in, and as this, would only take a few days, he expected the whole contract completed within a few days, after which the interior work could be finished. Concrete channelling had been laid around the three glass-houses to carry away the water. Cement and shingle necessary for this work was purchased. One hundred and twenty native clematis had been planted to grow on the fernery protective fence. Speaking generally, the work of the fernery and surroundings was well advanced, and it should not be long before they could stock up and plant the ferns. He would be ready to receive all the ferns and plants that had been promised by the end of the month. Six new seats ordered by the chairman had been delivered and were in every way satisfactory. The necessary work on the sportsground had been done and this part of the board's property maintained in good order. Soil provided by the cricket association had been received from Palmerston North, and this had been put into a specially prepared corner of the horseshoe bend and was sown with suitable grasses for renewing the cricket pitches later on. Seats on the terraces were being overhauled and renewed where necessary, and steps on the south

side of the eastern terrace would be put in at once.

It was decided to communicate with Mr. W. Holmes notifying him that everything was in readiness for him to proceed with the work of finishing the interior of the fernery.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW.

The chairman, in his annual report, said the year had been a somewhat eventful one. It had seen the practical completion of the fernery, which it was hoped to make the best in the Dominion. The contractor had been delayed by bad weather, otherwise it would have been completed by now. It was now ready for the earthwork to be finished, and it was hoped to get the planting and arranging commenced this winter. The excavated spoil had filled what was an unsightly neglected area.

The superintendent was now at work with the staff forming three islands and another lake, and within a short space of time this should be one of the most beautiful portions of the park. The sports area maintenance had been in the hands of the board during the whole year, and was now looking as well as it had ever done. Mr. Noble had devoted practically the whole of his time to this work as well as casual labour, and the cost had been a little in excess of the estimate, but the result had been well worth the extra cost. They were finding it increasingly difficult to raise enough money to run the park and do all the necessary work, and the Borough Council was approached re increased subsidy, and they increased the funds by £50 per annum, at the same time recommended a rate for next year which would pay for all maintenance. A house for the superintendent was an urgent necessity, as he felt sure that if he was housed in the park it would stop a great deal of the vandalism that was now going on, as well as making life a good deal more comfortable for him. He personally thanked Mr. Horton and all the members and his staff for their never failing courtesy and efficiency, and trusted that they might long continue in their sphere of usefulness. In conclusion, he thanked all the members of the board for many kindnesses shown to him during his term of office, especially during the period he was laid aside through illness.

Mr. Hughes said he agreed with the chairman's remarks re a superintendent's residence at the park. It was an urgent necessity.

Members generally were agreed, but said it was all a question of finance.

QUESTION OF CONTROL.

Mr. Amoores was reappointed chairman for the ensuing year, and Mr. Stainton was re-elected secretary and treasurer.

A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Short, Spence and McLeod was appointed to go into the suggested vesting of the park in the borough and report to a future meeting.

The secretary stressed the need of securing additional revenue in order to meet the immediate needs of the board. He pointed out that by the end of the month the funds in hand would be exhausted.

The finance committee was requested to go into the matter immediately and report to a special meeting of the board.

It was decided that in future the board meet on the second Tuesday in each month.

TDN, MAY 26, 1927 CANADIAN SOCCER TEAM OPENS TOUR TARANAKI DEFEATED 10 - 0

The Canadian Association football team opened its New Zealand tour at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, yesterday by defeating Taranaki by ten goals to one. The visitors were superior in all departments of the game and had they wished could probably have considerably increased their score in the second spell. The Taranaki team was not disgraced, however, considering the comparative stagnation of the game in Taranaki until the last year or two, and several promising players were seen in action.

A delightful understanding existed amongst the Canadian players, who by their clever combination often completely nonplussed the home team. In both headwork and footwork they set a standard that has probably never been seen in the Dominion before, and on yesterday's form, should fully extend any team they will be called upon to meet.

TH, JUNE 22, 1927 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. F. Amoores (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, M.P., Messrs. R. C. Hughes; W. C. Weston, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, J. McLeod, G. M. Spence, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, reported that since his last report the usual work of maintenance, both in the park and the sports area, had been done. About six chains of the worst part of the path around the lower lake had been metalled, which was a great improvement, but quite a lot more required doing, as most of the paths were very greasy in wet weather. Half-a-dozen yards of gaul shingle would do all the worst parts. They were now grubbing gorse and blackberry and tidying up the gully next to Mr. Rutherford's. The azalea dell had been overhauled and the ground dug. A few extra manuka and other plants had been planted in the racecourse gully, also a few pohutukawa on hill tops in exposed positions. Mr. Holmes started the final excavation work of the fernery on May 8. He and two other men were still at this work, and he did not expect to finish before about the end of July. Mr. Hartnell had completed the three glass houses, and in his opinion the work was well done. A nursery bed had been prepared on one house for the reception of ferns and he was now ready to receive all ferns that had been promised. He had to acknowledge the gift of three choice varieties from Mr. Morshead and also

canvas and flowering shrubs from Mr. Wheeler. The lakelet in the gully beyond the fernery was now completed and was filled with water, the supply being abundant. On the three islands in the lakelet a totara and kauri and a rimu had been planted to grow as specimen trees. Coloured water-lilies had been planted in the lakelet and iris on the banks, and if they made good growth this part of the park should become very attractive.

The opinion was expressed that the improvements to the gully had been particularly well conceived and would, in a short time be ones of the main features of the park. The superintendent was to be heartily congratulated on the manner in which the improvements had been carried out.

Thanks were accorded to Mr. Morshead for his donations.

It was decided to make inquiries as to obtaining a number of weki pungas for planting in the park.

FERNERY.

Mr. W. H. Besley on behalf of the citizen members of the Park Fernery Committee, wrote protesting against the action of the board in altering the plans of the fernery that had been agreed on by the Fernery Committee. The introduction of rows of unsightly punga posts into the chambers was never conceived by the originators of the scheme and made it, quite impossible to carry out the plan on which so much work had been expended by Mrs. Lovell and others. The committee had assured them that not more than one or two concrete pillars at the most would be used, and the plans were made accordingly. In his humble opinion the roof would not stand any length of time and he had had this verified by those he considered competent to judge. He suggested that the board get expert advice on the construction of the roof, for in case of a collapse it would have to be rebuilt and new glass provided. Besides this expense probably a valuable collection of ferns would be destroyed. The well-wishers of the fernery were greatly concerned about this matter and would be glad if the board would give its serious and immediate attention.

The chairman said he did not think there need be any concern about the punga posts; but even if any did have to be renewed it would be a simple matter.

Mr. McLeod said it would be a big improvement on the posts if the roof could be braced. It was unfortunate, too, that some of the posts came on paths, but this was not serious.

The chairman said the expense of bracing the roof would be great, and he did not think was warranted. In one instance an upright was in the way of the paths in the chambers.

Mr. Spence said it was a pity the standards were in their present position.

After further discussion in committee it was decided that the chairman interview the board's architect with a view to alterations being made, so that as many as possible of the punga posts could be eliminated.

TH, JUNE 22, 1927
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING
REVENUE INADEQUATE
KEEP OF PUKEKURA PARK
SUGGESTED VESTING IN
BOROUGH.

For some time the Pukekura Park Board has been faced with difficulties in regard to finance, and various schemes have been suggested with the object of increasing the revenue. It is felt, however, that the time has arrived when, if the park was to be maintained in its present state, the board would require an assured income, and as the outcome of a discussion which took place at a meeting of the board on Tuesday evening it was decided to approach the Borough Council with a view to a conference to discuss the future policy.

AVAILABLE £620; REQUIRED £1200.

The Finance Committee (Messrs. G. M. Spence and J. McLeod) reported that they had met on several occasions since the last meeting of the board and discussed the financial position of the board, but had found the problem an exceedingly difficult one in view of the present stringent financial conditions. They took it that the board was definitely committed to two things, firstly, the maintenance of the park in its present condition; and, secondly, the completion of the fernery. The £500 allocated out of the fund collected three years ago for the fernery, together with the additional amount of nearly £500 collected for the purpose last year, provided more than sufficient for this work. The trouble was that the revenue of the board was not nearly sufficient for ordinary maintenance. The cost of maintenance was nominally a minimum of about £17 weekly for wages, to which must be added the cost of tools, plants, seeds and repairs. The ordinary maintenance was, therefore, in the vicinity of £1200 per annum. It had been found necessary to employ extra labour for special purposes at certain seasons of the year, and it was impossible to avoid this if the park was not to be allowed to go back. Against this, the revenue of the board was:—

Borough subsidy	£300
Recreation ground rent	£75
Hire of boats	£100
Rent of tea-room	£20
Other rents and incidentals, say.....	£25
Total	£620
This left a nominal deficiency of about £600 per annum. The present position of the board was as follows:—	
Bank overdraft	£124
Accounts payable	£115
Accounts accruing, say	£50
Total	£289

To this must be added the cost of completing the fernery, say £100, and wages for the rest of the current year. The committee had formed the plan and recommended to the board to organise a canvass of the borough on the lines of that carried out last year, and estimated that at least £500 would be derived from such an effort, particularly if the public were made thoroughly aware through the press of the urgent necessity for funds if

the park were to be maintained in its present condition. Unfortunately, however, the unemployment situation, which had become acute and had been made known to the citizens within the past few days, make this method one of extreme difficulty, while the many other calls on the public of late caused the committee to hesitate to approach the public with another appeal. It was therefore a matter for the board as a whole to consider what means should be adopted to meet the situation and to take the responsibility of formulating a course of action, as there were no funds in hand for even one week's wages.

Mr. McLeod said the board would require to raise at least £600 this year to meet expenditure.

Mr. Stainton (hon. secretary) said the time had come when the board should face the position and consider whether the park should be handed over to the Borough Council. The question of finance had been discussed for months past now, but nothing definite had been done, and he thought this was one of the strongest arguments why they should approach the Borough Council to see if arrangements could be made whereby the borough would take over the financial arrangements of the park. The board would then have an assured income and that was an urgent need today if the park was to be maintained in its present satisfactory state. He did not think there would be any difficulty in coming to a satisfactory arrangement with the borough.

Mr. McLeod: Nothing can be done until March next, and we have got to face the position for the current year.

Mr. G. M. Spence said that when the park was a small affair and only required the services of one man the present arrangement was no doubt quite satisfactory, but the park had reached such a standard now that it could not be maintained in its present position with less number of men than at present employed. If one man was discharged the place would begin to go back. They had a man in the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, second to none—a man who had the practical knowledge and the physical ability to work also. The position as he saw it was that the undertaking had got too big for the board, which had not the facilities for getting the necessary money to maintain the park. If it did launch an effort then the willing horse paid every time. The average citizen did not do his share, and the only way to fairly apportion the financial responsibility was for the Borough Council to take the park over. He realised that those members of the board who had served for many years on the board and had given so much of their time in the interests of the park would not like to see control taken out of their hands, but if the board could not pay the price then it could not call the tune.

BOARD WOULD STILL RUN PARK.

Mr. F. Amooore (chairman) said the position as he understood it was that if the park was handed over to the Borough Council the council would in turn hand it back to the board to run, but members would be relieved of the necessity for

finding avenues of revenue. So far as he knew the council would not run the park, but would place it on the same footing as other parks in the borough.

Mr. C. E. Bellringer said he was afraid that if the park passed into the hands of the borough it would go back. Members of the board had put their hearts into the work, whereas if the council controlled the park the periodical change in the personnel would not make for continuity of policy.

Mr. Stainton said he was confident that every member of the Borough Council was keenly interested in park, and would not allow it to go back, nor would the public stand for the park being allowed to go back.

The chairman said he could not conceive the Borough Council or the people allowing the park to go back.

Mr. Spence said the council would simply tell them to carry on with a certain amount of money.

Mr. Stainton said the council made an annual grant to Carnegie Institute and entrusted the administration to a committee, and it seemed to him the park was just as important.

Mr. A. T. Moore said he had held the opinion for some time that the park should be vested in the borough.

Mr. McLeod: Why vested in the borough?

Mr. Moore: Well, the Borough Council would then strike a park rate. That is the only way to obtain assured income for the maintenance of the park.

Mr. Stainton said the borough would provide for maintenance, but any capital expenditure the board recurred it would have to raise itself.

Mr. McLeod said he had not understood that the council would require the park to be vested in the borough.

The chairman said the Mayor, had made it clear that the council would want the park vested in the borough, but that it would then be handed back to the board to administer.

Mr. Spence said that if any action was to be taken to alter the constitution, it would be necessary to do so immediately, as legislation would be required.

Mr. R. C. Hughes said their trouble was to meet immediate requirements. If it was decided to make any alteration in the constitution, that could come later. He thought an appeal should be made to the public and was confident the people would respond. It would not be wise to make an appeal at the moment, when there were others before the public, but the present depression would, in his opinion, soon pass, and if an appeal was made in a month or so it would, he felt, be successful. With the passing of dairy control there was greater confidence as to the future. With regard to the suggestion that the park should be handed over to the borough, this was a matter which would require very careful thought.

Mr. Stainton pointed out that within a month the board would have to find £300, or, if they waited two months, £400.

Mr. Bellringer said he had not the slightest objection to the park being handed over to the borough, provided it was worked on similar lines to other parks. The position was one that needed very careful consideration. The thing had grown too big to rely on contributions.

Mr. McLeod said the difficulty he saw was that the management might change from year to year, and then they would not get that continuity of policy which was imperative in the best interests of the park. He advocated an appeal for funds in the spring, and said that in the meantime it might be possible to make satisfactory arrangements with the bank.

During further discussion it was pointed out that the council would hardly be likely to change the personnel of the board from year to year. The same committees had been controlling other parks for years.

Finally it was decided, on the motion of Mr. Spence, seconded by Mr. McLeod, to approach the Borough Council with a view to a conference of the two bodies at the earliest possible date, to discuss the question of the future maintenance of the park.

Mr. Hughes said he did not like any suggestion that the board should hand the park over to the borough. In that event there was a probability of a renewal of the idea to put a tramline through the park to Vogeltown.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

The secretary submitted the balance-sheet for the year ended March 31, 1927. This showed an excess of expenditure over income of £896 17s 10d. Wages amounted to £1582 7s 5d, of which the Returned Soldiers' Association had contributed £67 16s. Other items of expenditure were: Insurance £8; timber, glass, and sundry building materials, £295 12s 7d; fireworks display, £72 10s; postages, etc., £13 16s 9d; water to fernery, £10 7s 6d; cartage, £15 6s 2d; printing, stationery, advertising, etc., £40 18s 5d; metal, £16 7s; plants, £13 15s 10d; electric range, £16 11s 9d; repairs, etc., £55 18s 8d; general expenses, £9 2s 3d; making a total of £2084 8s 4d. The income included: Fernery and sundry donations, £435 7s 1d; boat hire and wood sales, £113 13s 4d; proceeds from entertainments, £143 12s 3d; Borough Council subsidy, £250; sports ground committee, £215 10s.

A vote of thanks was passed to the auditors, Messrs. Duff and Wynyard.

TH, JULY 12, 1927

CULTURE OF FERNS SCHEME IN PULEKURA PARK AN INVALUABLE ASSET. WORK NEARING COMPLETION.

For many months visitors to Pukekura Park have watched the transformation that has been taking place hand in hand with the construction of the fernery on the Racecourse walk. Since some unemployed labour was put on more than 12 months ago to make a start with the removal of the earth, they have seen tons of clay dug out from the embryonic

fernery gradually efface the untidy swamp that used to be such an eyesore in this beautiful corner of the park. In place of that clay, a miniature fairyland is being gradually evolved by competent hands under three ordinary-looking glass roofs, enclosing an area larger than that of any other fernery in Australia or New Zealand, in which it is hoped, will be preserved for posterity specimens of rare native ferns that are fast becoming extinct. Those who saw the fernery at the South Seas Exhibition in Dunedin will realise the magnitude of the scheme in Pukekura Park when it is mentioned that the smallest of the three chambers is bigger than the one at Dunedin.

A BOTANICAL TREASURE-HOUSE.

It is in this botanical treasure house, destined to become one of the most important and valuable additions yet made to the park (providing as it does special interest alike to the botanist, the horticulturalist and the lover of nature), that something like four to five thousand ferns, comprising 140 varieties will be cultivated.

Artificiality is being shunned like a blight; rather Nature is being assisted. Just as the apiarist provides a hive for his bees, so, in this case, is a house being provided for the ferns which, once established, will grow as Nature intended. The design is such that everything is being done to cover, ultimately, the hand of man, and make the surroundings conform to the character of the main work.

The ground reclaimed from what was once swamp, full of raupo, gorse and blackberry, is being laid out in lawns and flower beds. At the far end of the new garden a dam has formed a new lakelet with three small picturesque islets. The swamp itself was pipe-drained before being filled in, so that there is no danger of the ground reverting to its original nature. A walk from the path leading to the Racecourse takes one to the entrance of the fernery at the lower end of the garden.

Since the chambers are really underground, being merely roofed with white-painted glass, the entrance is by a tunnel, which is 6ft. 6in. high by 5ft. 6in. wide. This tunnel leads off from a circular approach cut out of the hillside. In front of it will be erected a massive punga pergola, hiding the threshold, which will be approached by paths sweeping in on a curve from either side. Native climbing plants will be used to cover the pergola and the clay faces. Near the entrance there will be an administrative building, in which the superintendent will keep his records, books of reference and catalogues.

THREE SPACIOUS CHAMBERS.

The entrance tunnel, which is about 36 feet long, will be ultimately lined with native ferns, and a flight of punga steps leads into the first chamber, 50 feet long and 30 feet wide, lying at right angles to the entrance. To the left a 20 foot tunnel, which will also be lined with ferns, leads into No. 2 chamber, 60 feet by 30 feet, lying end on to the tunnel. A third transverse tunnel, 25 feet long, leads into the third chamber of similar size, lying parallel with the second. From the south

end of the third chamber the visitor descends about 10 feet through a curved tunnel back into the first, and thence again into the open air without retracing his steps.

The design has been splendidly conceived and well carried out. The original sketch of the interior lay-out was supplied by Mrs. Lovell, of Hawera, whose artistic tastes in horticulture are well known and this plan has been carried out as far as possible, although on account of the character of the soil and the nature of the buildings, slight departures have had to be made. All the interior excavation has been completed and in each chamber the interior arrangement has been varied, but the principle of construction is the same throughout. Troughs have been cut out of the solid clay, giving the inside an appearance of a miniature amphitheatre, and these troughs have been filled with about 18 inches of decayed leaf-mould and suitable soil brought in from the native bush in the park, thus providing a soil very suitable for fern culture.

In the second chamber, however, there are fewer troughed shelves. It has been nearly all excavated to provide room for the giant-growing ferns, tree ferns, dead logs with native growth and mosses, and lichens of all kinds. The walls are battered and will be covered by native ferns, some of which are already planted. Even at this early stage the suitability of the soil has made itself evident, as many patches of the excavation are rapidly becoming covered with ferny growth, germinating from the minute spores that have been dormant in the soil. The tunnels, for instance, are already lining themselves with leafy growth, and human aid will have only to complete what Nature leaves undone. The wall spaces will be covered by adiantums (maiden-hair fern), it being intended to use every variety of native adiantum for this purpose.

A complete collection of all the smaller-growing ferns will be housed in the three chambers, such as: *Todea superba*, *Isoetes macrospora*, *Adiantum species*, *Lindsaya*, *Polystichum*, *Pteris*, *Trichomanes*, *Reniforme*, etc.

SANCTUARY FOR VARIETIES.

"The idea is to establish as complete a collection of New Zealand ferns as we can get together," said Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of the park, showing a *Herald* reporter through the fernery. "For this purpose," he added, "over a score of enthusiastic botanists in various parts of the Dominion are collecting specimens. When the collection is complete we hope to make it a sanctuary which will be the only one of its kind for the ferns of New Zealand." In suggesting it as a sanctuary, Mr. Horton said he hoped to include in the collection several varieties of native ferns that are fast becoming extinct.

The superintendent spoke enthusiastically of the assistance that was being given locally. Twenty boxes including 204 ferns in 25 varieties, have been donated by Messrs. Duncan and Davies,

and would form the foundation of the collection. The ferns were a particularly fine lot, said Mr. Horton. Another enthusiast, Mr. F. J. Morshead, had also sent a small collection while Mr. J. Wheeler (Vogelstown), who was an expert in fern culture, was donating a very valuable collection and was also assisting Mr. Horton in the planting of the ferns.

"If collectors send along their specimens promptly" remarked Mr. Horton, "it would be possible to have the planting completed at the end of next month, when we should have at least 4000 to 5000 plants, comprising about 140 native varieties." When that was complete the fernery would be ready for the official opening.

Every available inch of space will ultimately be utilised, and in this respect the burden of the punga pillars which support the roof will be increased, it being the superintendent's plan to utilise these for the culture of many native climbing ferns and orchids.

It might be found necessary to introduce a few exotic ferns on account of the big space to be filled, and also a few begonias to brighten up the place and make it more attractive to visitors. These, however, will be removed when warranted by the growth and expansion of the ferns. Chambers 2 and 3 will be planted with ferns first, and any extra space in No. 1 will be made use of in this way.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

A damp, humid atmosphere is probably the first essential in growing ferns and, of course, special provision has been made for water supply. This will be brought into the third chamber and led into a shallow concrete basin at the highest point in the fernery, on a shelf at the north end. From there it will be conveyed in small streamlets over little artificial waterfalls, right through the house and down into No. 1 chamber by means of the traffic tunnel, where the sound of the unseen water will be heard splashing beneath the concrete steps. Small concrete holding tanks are built in each chamber to store water for use on the plants at the same temperature as the houses, a point which a great many people who cultivate plants fail to realise. Many make the fatal mistake of watering with water colder than the temperature of the house.

With the exception of the erection of the glass roofs the whole of the work has been done by the Park Board's staff under the supervision of the superintendent. The glass work was carried out by Mr. F. Hartnell under contract.

TH, JULY 13, 1927

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board held on Tuesday evening, Mr. F. Amoores (chairman) presiding. There were also present Messrs. R. C. Hughes, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary), T. Horton (superintendent).

Apologies were received from Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, M.P., W. C. Weston and J. McLeod.

Mr. Horton reported that the usual work of maintenance had been regularly attended to, and that considering the excessive rain and boisterous weather the park was looking very well. During the recent gales quite a number of large branches and two or three trees had been blown down and an unusual amount of punga leaves and rubbish had been deposited on all the paths, but it had been promptly removed and all paths kept open for traffic. The tops of two or three large tainui trees near the Gilbert Street walk had been cut off and necessary room provided for the growth and development of more valuable trees adjacent. Most of the scrub and heavy grass growth had been cut and burned in the gully next to Mr. Rutherford's.

The old iris bed had been dug and prepared for spring planting, and some 200 of the plants had been planted around the new lakelet. Excavation work in connection with the fernery was just about finished, and he expected to complete the benches and shelves today, when everything would be ready for planting. He was ready to receive all ferns that had been promised. The essential work on the sports ground had been attended to as far as weather and circumstances would permit. A pair of gates had been hung at the entrance to the playing field.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. R. Wells, Huirangi, for a donation of ferns. Correspondence was received from Mr. M. Standish, of Tarata, promising his assistance in obtaining a number of weka pungas for the park.

TDN, AUGUST 11, 1927 MR. NEWTON KING'S WILL GENEROUS BEQUESTS MADE TOTAL OF £10,000 TO FOUR PARKS

Probate of the will of the late Mr. Newton King was granted by Mr. Justice MacGregor in the Supreme Court at New Plymouth yesterday morning. Under the terms of the will generous bequests are made to the province of Taranaki, sums totalling £10,000 having been left to the controlling bodies of four different parks. The individual public bequests are as follow:—

£3000 to Pukekura Park, this amount to be invested and the income devoted to maintenance and general improvement of the park.

£3000 to the North Egmont Hostelry Committee.

£2000 to the committee of Kawarua Park, New Plymouth.

£2000 to the committee Of the East End Bathing Reserve, New Plymouth.

The executors of the estate appointed under the will are Messrs. Stanley Shaw, Truby King and Eliot King.

TH, AUGUST 16, 1927

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. F. Amoores (chairman) presiding. There

were also resent: Messrs. W. C. Weston, W. F. Short R. C. Hughes, G. M. Spence, J. McLeod, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent).

PROGRESS OF THE FERNERY.

Mr. T. Horton (superintendent) reported that the staff had been mostly engaged at the fernery or doing work in connection with it. Approximately two hundred bags of leaves and leaf mould had been gathered for use in the fernery. The interior excavation was completed, and three sets of steps leading to the various chambers had been put in, water laid on to each division, and three concrete water tanks built. This completed the work for which casual men were engaged, and they were paid off. In addition to ferns donated they had collected a great many themselves, and these had now been planted in position. The work of stocking the three chambers was well advanced, a total of 1071 ferns having been planted. Four unemployed returned soldiers had started work on a permanent improvement job, i.e., wheeling black soil to cover the clay in the racecourse walk gully preparatory to laying out. Ferns and plants had been donated by Mr. F. Morshead Mr. W. Besley Mr. L. S. Mackie (Otakeho) Dr. R. Nairn (Hastings) J. H. Frethey, Duncan and Davies Ltd., Mrs. J. Wheeler, Mr. J. Wheeler, Mrs. Lovell (Hawera), and Mr. B. Sladden (Tauranga).

The board's best thanks were due to these donors, and more especially to Mr. Wheeler, who had very materially assisted with the arrangement of the plants and with the work of planting. With his expert knowledge, his help had been invaluable.

A load of tree ferns of the Dicksonia fibrosa variety was received from Tarata, and these had all been planted. The general maintenance work of the park and the necessary work on the sports ground had been done, and everything was in fair order and condition. In accordance with instructions, he had engaged Master J. Ewart on three months' probation. There was considerable work to be done before the fernery approach was completed, but this would have to be deferred until the rush of spring work was over.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to donors of ferns, the chairman remarking that the fernery was going to be a wonderful asset to the park.

The secretary said he had received numerous letters from people resident in different parts of New Zealand, promising donations of ferns.

OFFER OF COLLECTION.

Mr. Horton mentioned that Mr. E. Maxwell had been an interested visitor to the fernery, and had expressed his delight with the collection of ferns which had already been planted. Mr. Maxwell had also been able to name a number of the ferns.

Continuing, Mr. Horton said Mr. Maxwell had a collection of specimens of New Zealand ferns, classified, correctly named and mounted. This was considered to be the most complete

collection in New Zealand, and was very valuable indeed. Mr. Maxwell had offered to loan it to the board, provided an undertaking was given that it would be properly cared for and safely housed. Mr. Spence said he knew something of Mr. Maxwell's collection, and that he understood it was the most perfect collection in the Dominion. As Mr. Horton had said, the ferns were all correctly named and all were magnificent specimens. It had been the intention to have the ferns photographed with a view to their being published in book form, and ultimately this might be done. The collection was complete, and seeing that the board hoped eventually to have a complete living collection, Mr. Maxwell's collection would be most helpful and provide valuable data. Continuing, Mr. Spence said his mother had been keenly interested in ferns, and had got together a valuable collection, all carefully mounted. They were for a time housed in the public buildings at Palmerston North, and subject to the same provisions as laid down by Mr. Maxwell he thought members of the family would agree to these being handed over to the board also.

It was decided to write Mr. Maxwell inviting him to become a member of the fernery committee, and also stating that the board would be pleased to confer with him with reference to his collection of ferns.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF PARK

It was decided to write to the Borough Council requesting that it appoint a committee to confer with the board on the question of vesting the park in the Borough and the future control and maintenance of the park.

Messrs. McLeod, Spence and Stainton were appointed a committee to make arrangements in connection with a big fireworks display.

It was decided to have certain painting done at the tea kiosk.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Returned Soldiers' Association for assistance in providing additional labour to carry out permanent work in the park.

The board agreed that Mr. Horton should supervise the building of a rockery at the cenotaph.

TDN, AUGUST 30, 1927

SHORT OF FUNDS

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD.

PROPOSAL TO VEST IN BOROUGH.

Conveying the information that the Pukekura Park Board was finding it increasingly difficult to provide the necessary funds to meet the maintenance expenses of the park, a letter from the park board was received by the New Plymouth Borough Council at a meeting last night. For the reason mentioned, the board applied to the council for the balance of the subsidy to be paid in a lump sum. If this were possible, it was anticipated that the board could tide over the winter months and then have a special park effort in the summer to carry it through the year.

The request was granted.

In another communication the board stated that at its last meeting it had resolved to request the council to appoint a committee to confer with the board on the questions of vesting the park in the borough and the further control and maintenance of the park.

The Mayor and Crs. Smith and Griffiths were appointed a committee to meet the board regarding this matter.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 14, 1927

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. Present: Messrs. F. A. Amooore (chairman), R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, J. McLeod and P. E. Stainton (hon. Secretary).

The chairman reported that he and Mr. Short had agreed it would be best to leave the tool shed in its present position in the meantime. Arrangements had been made for painting it.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 15, 1927

All the planting that can be done this season in the fernery in Pukekura Park will have been completed by the end of this week. After that work will be commenced on a massive pergola entrance. Iris and other flowering plants that have been planted round the edge of the new lake are growing splendidly, and these and the brilliantly coloured cannas on the three islands should combine to make a gorgeous display. Both the tea kiosk and the small house opposite have recently been painted. Generally the park is looking very fresh and clean after the rainy weather.

TH, SEPTEMBER 19, 1927

ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY

HATCHERY PROBLEMS

This year has been a lean year as regards the output of the hatchery in Pukekura Park. To those who are not conversant with the difficulty that the executive of the society has experienced, it may be as well to explain that the hatchery has hitherto been run for merely the hatching season from July to October, all the fish have been liberated as fry as it was impossible to hold them for a longer period, and the services of a temporary curator have been obtained. Trained men who are competent to take charge of a fish hatchery are not numerous, but for the last three seasons, by sheer good fortune, the society has been able to obtain the services of such a man. It was always more or less of a gamble, and this year the society was unable to obtain anyone who would or could understand the job. In consequence 100,000 rainbows were reared by local talent, 350,000 browns had to be counter-ordered, and the hatchery was abruptly closed down. The society has since been lucky to be able to purchase 100,000 brown fry at a reasonable rate, and I repeat, they were very lucky to get them. There has been a crying need for a larger, and more up-to-date hatchery for the district for some time now, with a permanent curator who could also rear feathered game, a thing which will never

obtain in the Park, and it is an undoubted fact that if the three societies combine, that they can build a hatchery to serve the whole district, and that the output will be larger and at a far cheaper rate than is, or ever will be, possible with three separate concerns. The executive of the society is so much alive to this necessity that they are already moving to attempt to arrange a new state of affairs, and interesting developments are imminent.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 20, 1927

COUNCIL AGREE TO RUN THE PARK

A petition that Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, be vested in the borough and come under the control of the council, and that the present board be abolished, is to be forwarded to the Governor-General. This decision was arrived at after a conference attended by the Mayor (Mr. F. E. Wilson), and Councillors F. Amooore, S. G. Smith, H. V. S. Griffiths, and P. E. Stainton (representing the council), and Messrs. G. M. Spence, H. Dempsey, A. T. Moore and W. F. Short (representing the park board). Last night, the borough council gave its consent to the proposal. The reason for the projected change is that the board is finding it increasingly difficult to finance the upkeep of the park from year to year, and it is felt that the only solution is for the council to take over the control of the park and strike a rate for its upkeep.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 21, 1927

WONDERFUL PARK FERNERY OVER 3000 NATIVE SPECIMENS. GREAT ASSET FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

Even at this early stage the fernery recently constructed in Pukekura Park is delightful for the lay-out of the three chambers and the approaches is attractive in itself, and most of the 3000 plants already installed have thrown up new fronds, fresh, green and feathery. But it is the developments six months hence that will mean a transformation into a place of unsurpassed beauty, a veritable fairy bower with every inch of clay banks clothed in fine maidenhair ferns (*adiantum*s), of which there are 12 distinct varieties. Then the tree ferns, the Prince of Wales' feathers, and all their smaller cousins will enclose the winding pathways in walls of fronds through which the light will play from the roof of glass.

From a botanist's point of view the collection will be unique, for it is the aim of the park superintendent (Mr. T. Horton), who has had charge of the work, to have at least one specimen of every fern in New Zealand. The assistance of collectors throughout the Dominion has been obtained and for weeks plants of all sizes and kinds have kept arriving. Even now parcels come to hand, though the bulk of the planting has been completed, but room can always be found for the rarities that have been taken from the bush. Thus the collection will be the most valuable and the most

comprehensive in the country. The name of every plant is indicated.

As has been explained before, three large chambers have been excavated in the hill behind the tea kiosk but nearer the racecourse. The tops have been roofed in with glass and the surrounding hillside has been put to very profitable use as a nursery for the park. Here every kind of young native plant is growing well for removal later to selected positions. The entrance to the first chamber is through a tunnel on a lower level. After mounting several steps one finds oneself in a lofty room well lighted from above. A pathway runs between an oval terrace of clay in the centre and wide ledges running round the sides. On these flat surfaces the ferns of medium size have been planted, while high up in small pockets dug out of the bank is a frieze of maidenhair that will eventually cover the surrounding surfaces. This chamber will contain native and exotic ferns and orchids, Mr. Horton explained to a Daily News reporter who visited the fernery. The others, however, will be devoted entirely to New Zealand plants.

WIDE VARIETY OF FERNS.

Another tunnel leads to the second chamber which houses a specimen of every variety of tree fern, as well as the smaller kinds. Already the fronds are showing the benefit of the humid atmosphere, the liberal waterings, and generally careful attention bestowed by Mr. Horton. A remarkable proof of the excellent growing conditions is the fact that the first leaves of fern spores have begun to make their appearance on the clay walls of the tunnels which will in time become completely covered.

The third chamber is connected, by tunnels with both the first and second. This has been laid out most effectively by Mr. John Wheeler, of Vogelstown, an enthusiastic horticulturist, who has a special knowledge of native ferns and their culture. He has followed his own ideas entirely, Mr. Horton explained, and there is no doubt at all that the result will be the formation of a very charming dell before many months have passed. There is a number of specimens of Prince of Wales feathers (*todea superba*), acknowledged to be the finest fern in the world. Its natural home is near water in shady gullies, and for this reason the specimens have been placed alongside a tiny stream that trickles along the foot of one wall. It is hoped that these ferns will become one of the features of the collection. Another variety here worthy of mention is the umbrella fern (*gleichenia cunninghamii*), a beautiful plant with light green fronds. The punga supports for the roof will eventually be covered with *lygodium articulatum*, the climbing plant that clothes the kauri so beautifully. A striking exhibit is a Maori image carved from a punga trunk by Mr. Wheeler. The white teeth have been made from the heart of the plant, the lolling tongue has been painted a flesh colour, and the top of the head is fringed with ferns.

The borough water supply is laid on to all the chambers, and Mr. Horton told the reporter that the ferns are always well

sprayed twice and often three times a day.

A massive pergola is being built over the pathway leading from the track to the racecourse, and this will lead directly to the flat ground outside the entrance to the fernery. This area is to be planted attractively and a small office for the keeping of records is to be erected in one corner. The whole valley in the vicinity has been changed from a swamp into a beauty spot. In the foreground is a large circular lawn with three mounds that will grow the gorgeously coloured cannas. Beyond is the lake, with irises flourishing on the banks and three islands that will be a mass of flowers in season. Still further up is a pond of water-lilies.

TH, OCTOBER 12, 1927

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, when there were present: Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), J. McLeod, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, R. C. Hughes, P. E. Stainton, and the park superintendent, Mr. T. H. Horton.

The superintendent's report stated:

Since my last report much special work has been done. One of the most important has been the lifting and removal of the half-inch water pipes which carried the water from the sportsground to the tea-rooms, etc. This pipe line has been very unsatisfactory for years. It has been replaced with a three-quarter-inch service, and this is proving very satisfactory, not only for the tea rooms, but the out-buildings and fernery. Several unemployed returned soldiers have been employed at very useful work such as wheeling black soil into the racecourse gully near the fernery, cleaning out the lower lake and trimming the banks all round the large lake and all watercourses. All the islands have been thoroughly cleaned up.

At the request of the unemployment relief committee I have supervised the construction of the rockery work near the cenotaph and the planting. The Gilbert Street borders have been dug and put in order for the season, as also have the roses, rhododendrons, azaleas and all other borders. Trees on the John Street Walk have been pruned and dug around and all are doing well.

The framework of a pergola has been erected over the pathway leading from the racecourse walk to the fernery. This work will have to be completed as opportunity offers. The tea rooms have been painted, also the office and tool room. The three boats have had their annual overhaul and have each received two coats of paint, and are now ready for the coming season.

The newly planted ferns are doing well, practically every plant growing. If nothing unforeseen happens the fernery should be ready for the official opening soon after Christmas.

Considerable work has been done on the sportsground in preparation for the coming cricket season. Five practice pitches have been prepared and four

more are being prepared for club matches and other competitions.

The feature of the park just now is the Japanese flowering cherries, the rhododendrons and azaleas, which are now in full bloom. The thanks of the board are due to Mrs. Mason, of Westown for the gift of *Iomaria alpina* for the fernery, and to other donors of plants who wish to remain anonymous.

An application from the Regimental Band for the use of the park on the Wednesday evening during the proposed carnival week, for the purpose of holding a combined concert and recital, was deferred until more details were available concerning the carnival week.

A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. McLeod, Spence and Stainton, was appointed to represent the board in the arrangements of the carnival week.

Mr. E. Maxwell wrote consenting to act as a member of the fernery committee.

TH, NOVEMBER 9, 1927

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. F. Amoore (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. H. Dempsey, R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, J. McLeod, G. M. Spence, A. T. Moore, and T. Horton (superintendent).

An apology was received from the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, who is indisposed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, reported that since his last report the usual work of maintenance had been done, and the park was now looking particularly well with the new spring growth and bloom. Special work done had included the laying of a new pipe drain from the large lake to the waterfall near the hatchery. This waterfall had been out of order for a long time, but was now running well and had resumed its former beauty and attractiveness. The swings which were bent and broken had been repaired. Material for the huge bonfire in connection with the fireworks display was gathered together and built as usual in the eastern corner of the Sportsground. Mr. F. Parker had generously erected a door at the main entrance to the fernery. All the flower beds had been planted with suitable varieties of plants for their respective positions. The newly-sown grass had come on well, and had received its first rolling and cutting. Satisfactory arrangements had been made for the continued services of the fernery assistant. On the Sportsground, a special cricket pitch for matches had been put down. This pitch was made of Longburn soil purchased by the cricketers. Four other pitches were also laid off in the centre of the field, making a total of five wickets, which they hoped to have in good condition for club competitions and other matches.

In addition to these, they had prepared five practice pitches, which were apparently giving the cricketers every satisfaction. The Sportsground,

generally speaking, was in very good Order, and is beginning to show the benefit of the recent extra work spent on it. He was pleased to report that the ferns in the new fernery were doing very well and gave promise of great success. It was imperative to provide additional shading for the ferns and this was now being done.

A hearty vote of thanks Was accorded to Mr. Parker for his donation.

LATE MR. NEWTON KING'S BEQUEST.

Mr. Eliot King, on behalf of the trustees of the estate of the late Mr. Newton King, wrote that they approved of the suggestion tentatively made that the income from the bequest be hypothecated for a period of five or six years, or such other term as might be decided upon, for the purpose of providing the necessary finance to erect tea-rooms in the park, and that, after the tea-rooms had been fully paid for, the income be specifically used for the purpose of maintaining the fernery, any surplus to be used for general park purposes.

Mr. Spence moved that the board approve the principle of appointing three trustees to receive and administer the income to be paid under the bequest to the board by the late Mr. Newton King, on the general lines indicated in the letter from the trustees off the estate, and that the board nominate Messrs. F. Amoore, J. McLeod and G. M. Spence to be a committee to discuss the matter further with the late Mr. King's trustees, with power to agree upon the terms of a deed of trust, to carry out such arrangement as may be arrived at by the committee with the late Mr. King's trustees, and that the members of the committee be nominated by the board as the first trustees.

A DISAPPOINTING RESULT.

Mr. Spence reported that the gate takings at the fireworks display amounted to £117, against £180 last year. The expenditure would be in the vicinity of £100, so that the park would only benefit to the extent of about £20.

Members expressed disappointment at the financial result of the effort, and were agreed that for the expenditure incurred the result did not justify the risk.

Thanks were accorded to the Citizens' Band and Pipe Band, the Fire Brigade, Mr. R. Day, the gatekeepers, and the press for their assistance.

NZ HERALD, DECEMBER 1, 1927 GIFT TO NEW PLYMOUTH, MONEY TO IMPROVE PARK.

Under the will of the late Mr. Josias Attrill, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, the sum of £100 has been bequeathed to the Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, to be applied for the benefit of the ground. Mr. G. M. Spence, of New Plymouth, has received the sum on behalf of the board from Mr. Harry Attrill, of Waitara. The late Mr. Josias Attrill was formerly a resident of New Plymouth, and for many years conducted a boot business in Devon Street.

TH, DECEMBER 14, 1927

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, where there were present: Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), W. C. Weston, G. M. Spence, C. E. Bellringer, M.P., and J. McLeod. Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of the park, was also in attendance.

The superintendent reported that owing to torrential rain on November 27, one of the concrete pillars of the dam at the outlet of the large lake carried away, and most of the water escaped. The damage was immediately repaired, and the dam was now safe and in good order. All direction signs in the park had been repainted and rewritten, and, where necessary, renewed. Four loads of gravel had been received and some had been spread over the fernery floor, and there was sufficient to metal the path leading from the main walk to the fernery. During heavy gales in November, several large pine branches overhanging the Vogeltown walk were broken. On November 19 a large pine tree on the hill beyond the kiosk came down and completely blocked two paths. This tree fell when there was no wind. In fact, there was a dead calm at the time. This showed that the older pine trees were likely to become a very serious problem, if not a grave danger. The necessary work on the sportsground had been done. The long grass on the terraces was being cut, and the practice and match wickets were in good order. A feature of the park at present was the beautiful water lilies and irises. One pair of young white swans had been ordered from the Wairarapa, and these would be sent along as soon as they were strong enough to travel.

The report was adopted.

In view of the approaching dissolution of the board and the vesting of the park in the Borough Council, Mr. Amoore moved that all bequests made to the park should be invested and the income derived from them be used for the general improvement of the park, independent of the upkeep of the park by means of rates, this was carried. It was decided to ask the Borough Council to pass a similar resolution, it being considered that only by such action could people be expected to make bequests to the park.

A vote of thanks was passed to the trustees of the late Mr. Attrill in regard to a bequest of £100 to the park.

TDN, DECEMBER 14, 1927 EXTENSION TO RHODO DELL

The extension of the rhododendron dell in Pukekura Park, situated at the head of the gully running past the entrance of the fernery up to the jockey club's property, was advocated by the park superintendent (Mr. T. H. Horton) at a meeting of the park board last night. Mr. Horton stated that an anonymous donor had given him £1 with which to purchase rhododendrons in England, and he hoped to be able to secure some fine specimens. If a few more such donations were

received, he would be able to secure some valuable plants.

TH, DECEMBER 20, 1927 PARK VESTED IN BOROUGH THE CONTROL OF PUKEKURA COUNCIL ACCEPTS PROPOSAL. DISPOSAL OF BEQUESTS.

The vesting of Pukekura Park in the Borough Council was agreed to last night, when the council decided to become a party to a deed of trust relating to the bequest of £3000 by the late Mr. Newton King.

The income from this money is to be used first to replace the tea kiosk in the park, and afterwards to pay for the upkeep of the fernery.

A deputation from the board pointed out the necessity of ensuring that present and future bequests should be for improvements to the park and not for general maintenance, which would mean that they would contribute to the alleviation of rates. The council agreed to this principal in respect to the Hulke, Attrill and Freeth legacies and any others that might be left in the future.

Councillor Amoore said that it was fairly well known that the board had for some time been nearly at the end of the rope so as far finance was concerned and it was desired that the rates should become responsible for the maintenance. The board was very much opposed to bequests being used for the alleviation of rates, but it was willing to find the money for permanent improvements.

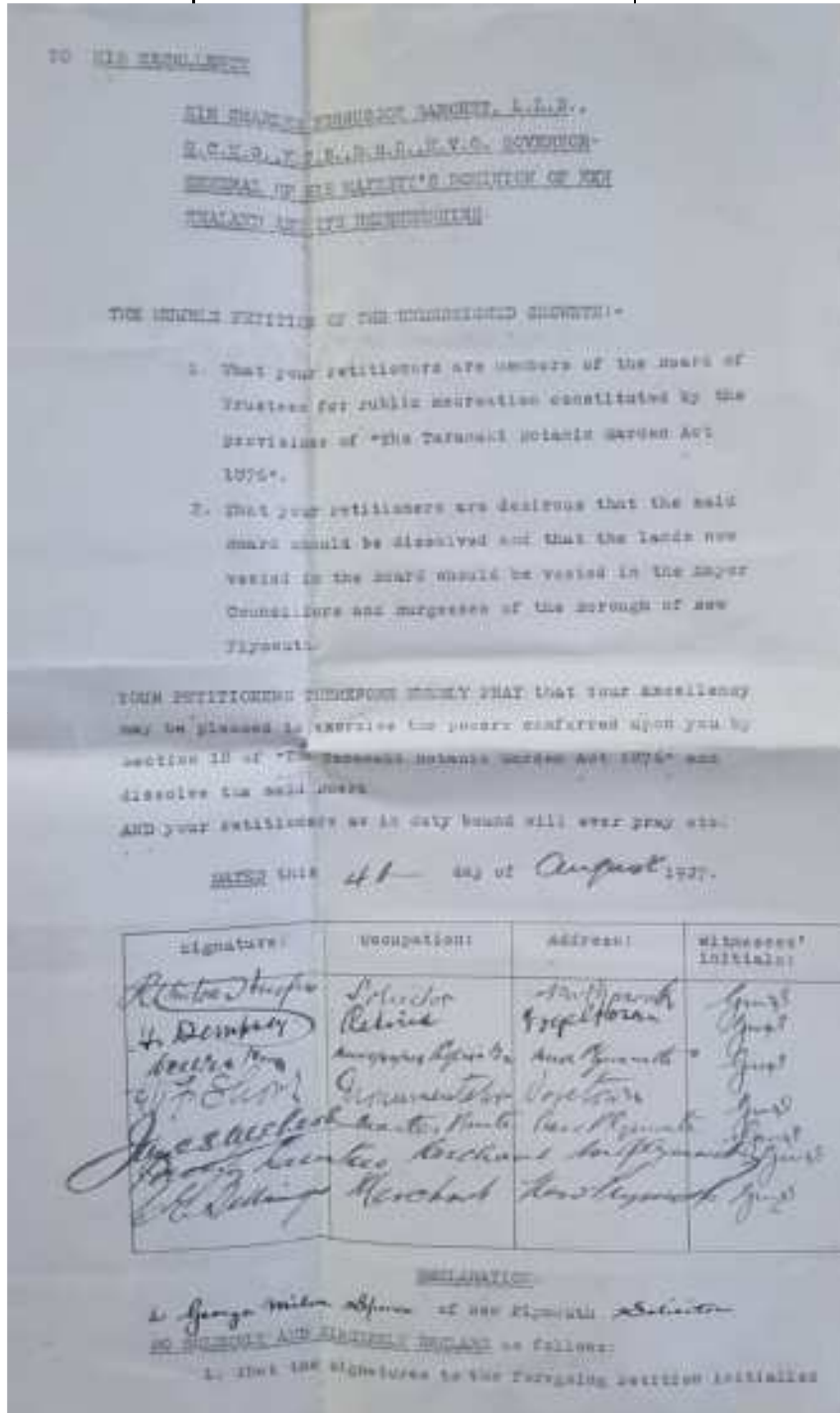
Mr. G. M. Spence said the circumstance that had actually led to the drawing up of the deed was the bequest from the late Mr. Newton King. It was felt that steps should be taken to safeguard this and other bequests. The upkeep of the park was a fair charge on the borough, but it was believed that if Mr. King had thought that in the course of time his bequest would be used in alleviation of rates he would not have left the money to the park. The terms of the bequest had been drawn up in a very open manner and the board considered it should be used only for permanent improvements. It suggested that the income from the capital of £3000 should be hypothecated first for the renewal of the tea kiosk and afterwards for the upkeep of the fernery. There were other bequests—the Hulke, Attrill and Freeth legacies—and it was decided at the last meeting of the board that they and any in the future should be for the permanent improvement of the park and not for ordinary maintenance. The idea of this was to encourage people to leave bequests to the park, with the assurance that the money would not be used in alleviation of rates. The board wanted no suggestion that anything was being done without the council's full acquiescence.

Mr. McLeod said that for the last year or two the board had found itself in difficulties and had had to raise not less than £800 a year. Its only assured revenue was the borough subsidy and some rents. At the time of going out of operation the board would be in debt by about £600, but it was not intended that the council should shoulder this

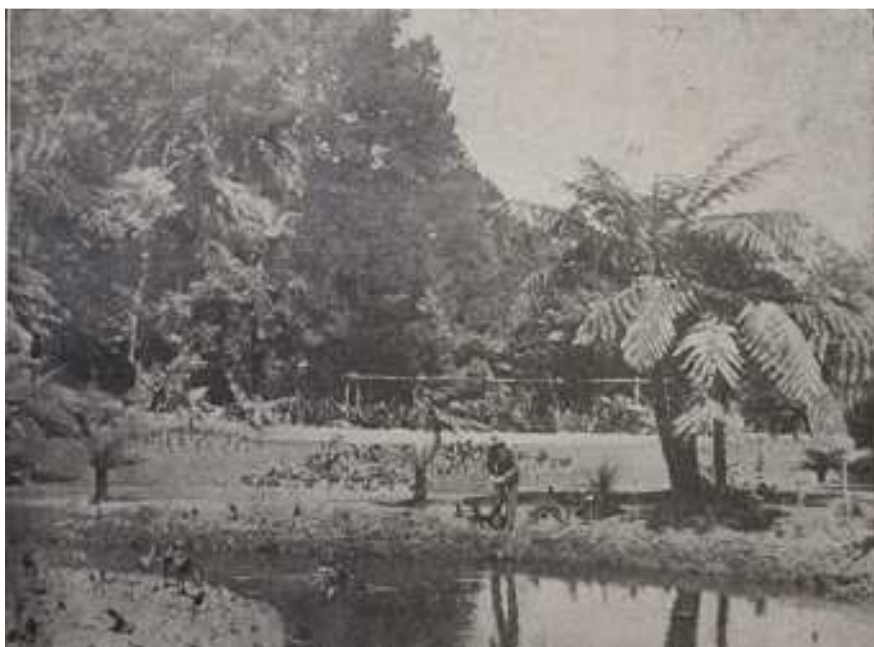
responsibility. The board by holding carnivals, etc., hoped to obtain sufficient funds to cover this and start some further improvements that were in the wind. Some trust money that had been diverted recently with the permission of the donor would be paid back into the trust fund. He thought the question of policy concerning the use of legacies was most important. If it went out that bequests were to be used in reduction of rates, people would not make them. As a board they felt that if the terms of the deed were agreed to there could not be the slightest apprehension about the continued progress of the parks.

The Mayor asked whether the board would be agreeable to have a clause inserted that in the event of the death of a trustee of the bequest fund the council have the right to fill the vacancy. Mr. Spence said this would be agreed to. Mr. R. C. Hughes said it was over 52 years since the board was constituted by an ordinance of the provincial Council. Since then members had worked with enthusiasm and had presented to the borough a park that was the admiration of residents and visitors. It was a privilege for the board gracefully to retire and hand the park over to the borough. He was present at the funeral.

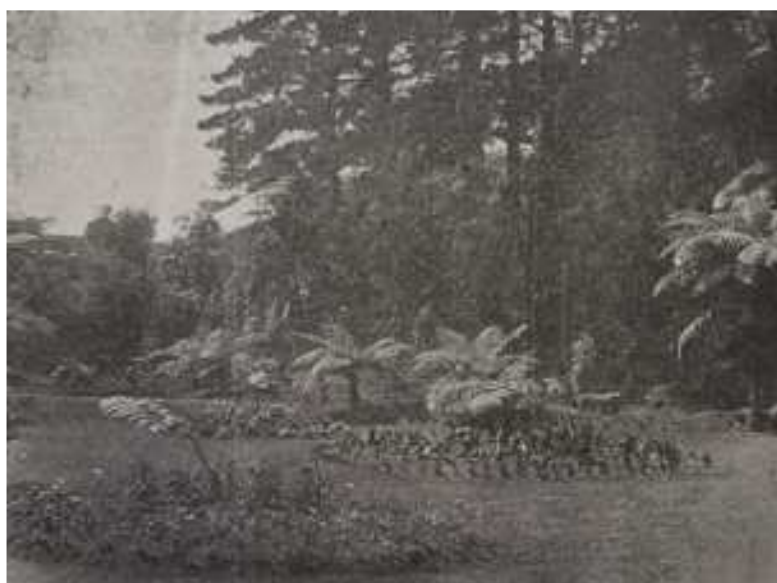
Cr. S. G. Smith: The wedding surely! Mr. Hughes hoped it would not be death, but merely a transition into a new life elysian. In reply to Cr. Payne, Cr. F. Amoores, who is chairman of the park board, said the cost of upkeep was £1200 a year. He considered it was a red-letter day for the park and borough; the former would be carried on better than ever. The board will appoint three trustees to administer the bequests. Members of the deputation were Messrs. W. C. Weston, H. Dempsey, G. M. Spence, R. C. Hughes and J. McLeod.



A prepared petition to dissolve the Pukekura Park Board and vest the land with the Borough Council. (Puke Ariki ARC2003-860)



Views around the Fred parker Lawn
and nearby lakelet just after their
formation. *Taranaki Herald*,
December 31, 1927



1928

The fernery was officially opened at 1.30 p.m. on January 28, the Mayor Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths doing the honours. This was arranged to coincide with the last day of a Shopping Week that had been organised to promote the businesses of New Plymouth. Later that afternoon a floral fete was held in the park and in the evening a Pierrot entertainment under the direction of Mr. Wauchop, both of which were fundraisers.

Another fundraising event was a sport meet at the park on February 18. A special feature of the meet was the appearance of Stanley Lay, New Zealand's first nominee for the Olympic Games, he registered a very long javelin throw when he surpassed the Australian and New Zealand record of 209ft 4in, which he had established recently at the park, by three inches. The distance was not measured by a surveyor, as a record could not be granted because the meeting was not a registered one. (The drive from the main entrance at Fillis Street to the Bellringer Pavilion is named the Stan Lay Drive in honour of this amazing athlete).

During February, the cannons that had stood proud on Cannon Hill for more than thirty years were removed and delivered to the Carnegie Library, these can be seen today at Puke Ariki Museum.

The demise of ducklings by predators has always been a problem in the park but this year some locals took it upon themselves to take the young ducklings home, rear them, and release them back into the lake when they were big enough to look after themselves.

Recognised species and varieties of New Zealand ferns growing in the fernery at Pukekura Park in September 1928

Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum, villosum, australe, pulcherrimum, dilatatum, demissum, flabellatum; Trichomanes reniforme, venosum, strictum, elongatum; Loxsoma cunninghamii; Dicksonia squarrosa, fibrosa, lanata; Cyathea dealbata, medullaris, cunninghamii; Hemitelia smithii; Polystichum sylvaticum, richardi, cystostegia, hispidum, adiantiforme; Dryopteris decomposita, glabella, velutina, punctata, pennigera, parasitica, gongyloides; Nephrolepis cordifolia, exaltata; Leptolepia novae-zealandiae; Davallia tasmani; Lindsaya linearis, viridis, cuneata, cuneata var. lessonii; Athyrium umbrosum; Diplazium japonicum; Asplenium flabellifolium, trichomanes, adiantoides, obtusatum, lucidum, lucidum var. obliquum, scleroprium, anomodum, hookerianum, hookerianum var. colensoi, bulbiferum, bulbiferum var. laxum, bulbiferum var. tripinnatum, richardi, flaccidum; Blechnum patersoni, discolor, vulcanicum, norfolkianum, lanceolatum, banksii, penna-marina, capense, filiforme, nigrum, fluviatile, fraseri; Doodia media, caudata; Pellaea falcata, rotundifolia; Nothochlaena distans; Cheilanthes tenuifolia, sieberi; Hypolepis tenuifolia, millefolium, distans; Adiantum aethiopicum, diaphanum, diaphanum var. polymorphum, hispidulum, formosum, affine, fulvum; Pteris tremula, comans, macilenta, macilenta var. pendula, macilenta var. saxatilis; Histiopteris incisa; Pteridium aquilinum; Paesia scaberula; Polypodium billardieri, grammitidis, dictyopteris, pustulatum, novae-zealandiae; Cyclophorus serpens; Gleichenia circinata, dicarpa, cunninghamii, flabellata; Schizaea fistulosa, dichotoma; Lygodium articulatum; Todea barbara; Leptopteris hymenophylloides, superba; Marattia fraxinea; Botrychium australe, australe var. millefolium.

Plant Donations Included:

Mrs. Morrison, Samoan ferns; Miss Devenish and Messrs. F. Parker, E. Zumbach, J. Bain and Q. Watkins, plants; Mr. Hancock, Fitzroy a large banana tree; Messrs. E. Maxwell, Rahotu; C. J. Sheppard, of Wanganui and Davis and Mackie, of Otakeho, various ferns; Mr. C. Cameron, of Tauranga, collection of ferns; Mr. L. J. Wright (Wanganui) had sent, per Mrs. Nicholls (Otakeho), a root of the rare species Davallia Tasmanii; Miss Ethel Smith and Messrs. Dunan and Davies, donated seeds; Mr Frank Ducker, Palm seeds from Fiji; Mr. Shepherd, rare ferns; Mr. Dobbie, 3 new varieties of ferns; Duncan & Davies Ltd, 10 varieties metrosideros (climbing rata).



Reception for Sir Charles and Lady Fergusson.
Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections AWNS-19280621-38-4

TH, JANUARY 18, 1928
FUNDRAISING
A FLORAL CARNIVAL
FOR PUKEKURA PARK AND
SPORTSGROUND

A meeting of representatives of the Pukekura Park Board and the Pukekura Sportsground Committee on Tuesday evening discussed matters in connection with the gathering to be at the park on Saturday of Shopping Week, and also in connection with week's carnival to be held subsequently, both efforts being in aid of the funds of the park and sportsground. Mr. F. Amooore (chairman of Park Board) presided, and there were also present Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, M.P., A. L. Humphries, J. McLeod, T. H. Bates, C. N. Johnson, G. M. Spence, A. T. Moore. Mr. F. Reade Wauchop, organiser, was also present.

An executive committee consisting of Messrs. F. Amooore, A. L. Humphries, J. McLeod, C. N. Johnson, G. M. Spence, T. H. Bates, L. Little, T. Petty, L. B. Webster and A. T. Moore was appointed. Mr. Spence was appointed treasurer and Mr. S. E. Neilson hon. secretary.

After full discussion it was agreed that the function to be arranged by the committee for the Saturday afternoon of Shopping Week should take the form of a floral fete, and the programme will include competitions for decorated motor cars, for which prizes of £3 3s and £1 1s will be offered; decorated go-carts, bicycles and tricycles, for which the prizes will be 10s and 5s; and novelty events, for which the prizes will be £1 and 10s.

In addition there will be dancing by children and adults under the direction of Mr. Wauchop, and a band will be in attendance.

The fernery at Pukekura Park will be open during the afternoon at a charge of 1s, admission tickets being available on the grounds.

Ice-cream, sweets and soft-drink stalls will be provided, and sub-committees will be appointed to arrange for numerous side-shows and competitions which are always so popular with the public. There will also be a fireworks display, a supply of fireworks having been promised gratis by Mr. J. Hopkins.

In the evening there will be a Pierrot entertainment at the park under the direction of Mr. Wauchop.

In the interval between the floral fete and the carnival to be held in March, the Pierrots will visit adjacent districts and provide entertainment.

Mr. McLeod expressed the hope that as a result of the floral fete and the entertainments to be provided by the Pierrots that sufficient sinews of war would be provided to defray all the expenses in connection with the subsequent effort.

Discussion then centred on the main effort, which it was decided should take place from March 5 to 10. In this connection Mr. Wauchop will seek the assistance of both children and adults, the proposal, being to stage historical pageants at the park, a pageant representing the landing of the first

settlers at New Plymouth, and many other interesting features. Mr. Wauchop has had considerable experience, having organised many most successful functions of this kind in different parts of New Zealand. The participants will all be attired in the dress of the period they represent, and the dancing will also be representative of the different periods. There will be two afternoon gatherings at the park during the week and four evening gatherings. Many other features will also be provided.

It is also proposed to hold a Queen Carnival contest, and for this purpose it has been decided to solicit the help and co-operation of the schools of the town suburbs. The schools will be asked to nominate candidates for the Carnival Queen, and then it is hoped enthusiastic district committees will enter into the spirit of the carnival and arrange gatherings in the interests of their respective candidates.

This part of the programme it is hoped to launch immediately, and arrangements will be made for notifying the positions of the candidates daily.

Mr. McLeod said that as a result of the whole effort, it was hoped to raise a sum of £3000 for the purpose of liquidating debts in connection with Pukekura Park and to provide improvements to the sportsground.

TH, JANUARY 26, 1928

THE PARK FERNERY

READY FOR OPENING.

A CLUSTER OF NATURE'S GEMS.

"A thing of beauty and a joy for ever" may be a somewhat hackneyed phrase, but it is quite the most apt and could in complete truth have been first written to describe the new fernery at Pukekura Park, which is to be officially opened by his Worship the Mayor at 1.30 on Saturday afternoon.

A representative of the Herald was privileged to accompany Mr. G. M. Spence this afternoon on a hasty tour of the fernery. The work in its finished state is a permanent tribute to the skill of the designers and the thorough care of those carrying out the work. The houses (three in number) have been cut out of the solid clay and the spoil used to reclaim an unsightly piece of swamp, of which more anon.

The first house is entered by a tunnel, and a general description of one will serve for the three. Ample path-room is provided and the walls have been reveted and terraced to provide display space for the specimens. Thus we have a bouse with an oval path in the centre and the walls sloping backwards as they rise. All the walls have been planted with maiden-hair ferns, and the tunnels and fresh clay are rapidly being clothed with a natural growth of tiny ferns and mosses. The ultimate object of the designers is that the fernery shall be a complete, and, it may be added, the only fully complete collection in New Zealand. That laudable aim is almost achieved, for only 40 more varieties are needed and the work is "il fait accomplit."

All the ferns now in their future homes are each beautiful and vigorous specimens, and under the favourable conditions are making marvellous growth. Two other houses open from the first in the Shape of a V; the first is to be a home for ferns of larger growth. The three houses are fully planted the blanks for ferns being occupied with some wonderful specimen begonias which will later be replaced with ferns. Ample water keeps a congenial humidity constant, and the shaded glass preserves the tender and lovely fronds from the scorching rays of the direct sun. Apart from its picturesque value as gem of beauty, the fernery is sure to soon be regarded as a valued asset to the town, as it will be a national storehouse of the most rare and beautiful ornaments of the vegetable kingdom. The fernery is sure to attract many visitors from Saturday onwards.

The swamp which has been filled with the earth from the fern houses is another dazzling picture. The chief feature at present is a glorious display of cannas, which will be at their best on Saturday. On a level lawn is a bed of wonderful petunias blazing with colour. Another bed is a daintily tinted rainbow of phlox drummondii, also in full bloom, while a bed of salvia bonfire will be in full glory in a week or two.

The pergola approach is bordered with chrysanthemums, and the complete effect is that a dull and dank gully has been transformed into a cluster of gems, each being a separate and complete cameo of vivid natural beauty.

TH, JANUARY 28, 1928

PARK FERNERY OPENED

NATIVE SPECIMENS PRESERVED

ATTRACTIVE BEAUTY SPOT.

An additional beauty attraction to New Plymouth—the new fernery in Pukekura Park—was officially opened by the Mayor, Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths, as a preliminary to the floral carnival which is being held there this afternoon.

Owing to the early hour the attendance was quite small.

The chairman of the Park Board (Mr. F. Amooore) said he was proud to be there when the fernery was at last an accomplished fact. He desired to acknowledge the great help they had had from Mrs. H. T. Lovell, of Hawera, who was with them that day, and Mrs. John Wheeler, of New Plymouth. Mrs. Lovell had been the mainstay of the scheme, which had been designed by her, and which she had helped to carry-out faithfully and well. Mr. Wheeler had given great help, too, supervising the cutting out, planting, etc., in fact, he seemed to have almost given himself a permanent job.

Mr. Amooore went on to refer to the transformation that had taken place in what used to be the raupo swamp adjoining the fernery site. The aim and object of the board in regard to the fernery was to gather a collection of every native variety of fern which in all numbered about 190. At present they had specimens of some 150 varieties, and therefore had only 40 more to get.

Altogether there were some 2000 plants but these included many duplication.

COST OF SCHEME.

The cost of the scheme, added Mr. Amoore was roughly in the vicinity of £1150. The excavation cost about £917, while some £50 to £60 was spent in beautifying the surroundings and the swamp. The nucleus of the fund was a sum of £500 which was earmarked by the board from the proceeds of the big carnival in 1924, and every penny of the sum spent was provided by public subscription. Another building to house specimens, catalogues, pictures, and records, continued Mr. Amoore, would be erected at the entrance, and it was hoped that some generous-minded citizen would be found to help them with this. The pergola in front, when covered with creepers, would make a handsome entrance. Finally, Mr. Amoore paid a tribute to the energy of the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton), whose understanding of the work was a great aid. Mr. Horton was about to leave for England, and one of the places he would visit would be the gardens at Kew, where he hoped to obtain specimens of some of the finest rhododendrons for the purpose of establishing another beauty spot in the park.

Mayor, Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths, who opened officially the new fernery, said that amongst his light and pleasant duties of the day, the most pleasant was that of opening the new fernery.

Pukekura Park was too well known as a scenic gem and a priceless heritage for any further praise, but it could certainly be said that the new fernery had added an incomparable beauty spot to the already beautiful town of New Plymouth. In the name of the citizens of New Plymouth Mr. Griffiths congratulated the members of the Park Board, Mrs. Lovell, the curator, and all those who had taken part in the building of the fernery, on the perfection of the result. The fernery would provide New Zealand with a sanctuary where from time to time the beautiful fern flora of the country could be seen. It was believed that the fernery would be unique. Mr. Griffiths finally extended his good wishes to the board, and trusted that the fernery would meet with the success and patronage that was expected of it. It deserved success as one of the greatest attractions of the town.

TH, JANUARY 28, 1928

FUNDRAISING

TO-DAY'S FLORAL FETE GATHERING IN PARK.

SHOPPING WEEK FINALE.

As a finale to Shopping Week a grand floral fete was held in Pukekura Park this afternoon and will be followed by an open-air entertainment to-night.

This afternoon there was a large crowd of people at the park taking a keen interest in the attractive decorative display, the special dancing and the various competitive events. The Citizens' Band was also present and rendered a pleasurable selection of items.

To-night the Barnstormers Pierrots, who have been specially organised by Mr. F. Reade Wauchop, will provide a first-class programme at the park. The fun will commence with a procession through the town, to the grounds, which are being specially illuminated.

The judges in the decorative classes, Mrs. C. H. Burgess and Messrs. V C. Davies and Bradbury, had a difficult task, for what the entries lacked in quantity they made up in quality.

TH, FEBRUARY 9, 1928

FUNDRAISING

CARNIVAL COMMITTEE MEETS.

The Pukekura Park Carnival Committee met recently, when further arrangements were made for the sports meeting on February 18, and the historical pageant during March.

It was reported that a committee of headmasters of local schools had been met, and the headmasters had promised to advise their school committees to assist the park by starting a queen carnival. Arrangements were made for each school committee to be visited by members of the Carnival Committee in order to explain the scheme and to get their assistance. It was also decided to re-donate 10 percent of the funds collected by the school committees to the support of their candidates in the queen contest. For the historical pageant on March 5 to March 10 it was resolved to print a souvenir booklet dealing with the park itself and the pageant.

Matters regarding the sports meeting on February 18 were discussed, and a special committee was set up to take steps to improve the electric lighting at the sportsground. The local branch of the Amateur Athletic Association wrote agreeing to provide four events, and the League Cycle Club also promised to run three events. Amateur Athletic officials agreed to assist in the running off of the events, and the committee decided to do all in its power to decide the events punctually. Mr. P. J. Flanagan was asked to supervise the tug-of-war competition.

Mr. W. H. Moses, headmaster of the Boys' High School, wrote agreeing to allow the pupils to give a massed display of physical drill during the sports meeting, and it was also decided to ask the Old Boys' Gymnasium Club to arrange an exhibition of gymnastics.

Advice was still being awaited from the commander of H.M.S. Dunedin giving permissions for the bluejackets to perform at the sports meeting. It was decided that if arrangements were finalised in that direction, the bluejackets should be the guests of the Carnival Committee at tea on the afternoon of February 18.

TH, FEBRUARY 20, 1928

ELECTRIC LIGHT SPORTS

THE PARK BENEFITS

LAY'S JAVELIN THROW.

Stanley Lay, New Zealand's first nominee for the Olympic Games, registered another very long javelin throw at Pukekura Park on Saturday

evening, when he surpassed the Australian and New Zealand record of 209ft 4in, which he established recently at New Plymouth, by three inches. The distance was not measured by a surveyor, as a record could not be granted owing to the fact that the meeting was not a registered one, but the officials who measured the distance arrived at the above result. Lay threw eight times, and, at the fifth attempt, the javelin landed just past the flag marking the record, the crowd cheering its appreciation.

The meeting which was organised by the Pukekura Park Carnival Committee with the co-operation of the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic Club and the New Plymouth League Cycle Club, proved to be an outstanding success. It was originally intended that the crew of H.M.S. Dunedin should participate, but when it was found that she would not be in port, successful efforts were made to secure some of the men of the S. S. Middlesex. Among them were several runners, and a tug-of-war team from the boat replaced that of the Dunedin.

TH, FEBRUARY 22, 1928

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday evening. There were present Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), G. M. Spence, J. McLeod, R. Clinton Hughes, W. F. Short and P. E. Stainton (secretary). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. W. C. Weston and A. T. Moore.

The acting superintendent (Mr. F. J. Morshead) reported that during the month hot and dry, but otherwise pleasant conditions had prevailed excepting on the 15th inst., when fairly heavy rain fell, which although not in sufficient quantity to saturate the soil had stimulated growth and generally freshened vegetation in the park. When taking over control from Mr. Horton, Mr. Morshead said, he had been thoroughly initiated into the routine, and general maintenance was being continued on the same lines as was done previously. The old cannons were removed from the hill on the 9th inst. and delivered to the Carnegie Library the following day. The slope between cannon hill and the lower lakes was cleared up, also the slope behind the tea-rooms and on the eastern side of the main lake, the latter requiring a little more attention to make a complete job. As these portions bordered on the main paths, the work had added to the general attractive appearance of the park. Several of the bridges required slight repairs, and they were being attended to as opportunity occurred. Visitors continued to remark on the very fine appearance of the flower beds, especially the cannas, which were now in full bloom.

DR. A. W. HILL'S VISIT.

Dr. A. W. Hill, director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, and the official party accompanying him, were shown through the park by members of the board on the 16th inst., continued the report. Perhaps his most noteworthy

observation was a reference to its natural beauty and the absence of artificiality, and he specially congratulated the board on its policy in that particular. The plants in the fernery were doing remarkably well, the begonias now making a very pleasing display. Visitors continued to patronise that establishment in large numbers, and commented very favourably on its appearance. A commencement had been made with the preparation of the punga stems to cover the bank at the fernery entrance, and that should be completed in a few days. A gate had also been placed in the temporary fence in front, and the surroundings finally cleared up.

The sportsground had been maintained in very good order, considering the dry conditions, while the western and eastern terraces had been trimmed, a netting fence completely renewed, and general work carried out. In conclusion, Mr. Morshead said he desired to thank the staff for much assistance while he was becoming familiar with the general routine of work connected with the upkeep and maintenance of the park.

The question of procuring a movable stand for the use of bands giving concerts on the sportsground was discussed, and the matter was referred to Messrs. Amoores and Stainton.

It was decided to endeavour to expedite the transfer of ground, between the Jockey Club and the park for the rhododendron dell, and the matter of surveys was left in the hands of Messrs. Amoores and Stainton.

Use of the sportsground for visiting fire brigades next Sunday was granted.

Acknowledgment was made of a donation of £1 1s towards the rhododendron fund.

The chairman submitted the joint and several which was being signed and presented to the bank as security for an overdraft up to £500. At present, he stated the board's overdraft stood in the vicinity of £180, but it was hoped to square the accounts at the close of the board's forthcoming effort and before its finances were handed over to the Borough Council at the end of March. The chairman remarked that the board would have to find £20 a week for wages until that time. Several signatures were added during the meeting.

TDN, MARCH 9, 1928 **FUNDRAISING** **PAGEANT OF NATIONS**

The pageant of nations in and of Pukekura Park funds was produced in the sportsground last night before a large crowd. Bright moonlight and calm weather made the conditions ideal.

An inspiring sight was provided when 400 High School boys spread themselves across the oval for their physical drill display under the supervision of Mr. F. J. Eggleton. Clad in their white and blue gymnasium uniforms, the boys went through their evolutions with clock-like precision, the long, strung-out lines bending this way and that as though mechanically controlled. The general effect was made

more spectacular by the complete system of lighting that had been adopted. Flood lights had been placed at short intervals all the way round the oval, while from poles erected in the centre larger lamps lit up the ground beneath, so that there was as little shadow as possible. Under these favourable conditions the boys gave a performance for which they received well-merited and very hearty applause.

The pageant itself, produced by Mr. F. Reade Wauchop, began from a large staging erected at the northern bank. On this stage first appeared the representatives of Japan in flowery, flowing kimonos and coyly carrying fans. Led by the Spirit of Japan, the tea girls performed a dance to appropriate music provided by Mrs. Rowe (piano) and Mr. R. George (violin). A ballet of girls garbed in blue, orange and lemon heralded the appearance of Chinese girls, and next came the dancing maids of the Turkish harem. A change from the striking colours that had gone before were the exquisite and delicate pastel shades of the long flowing robes of the Grecian maids, who performed one of those slow, graceful classical dances. Italian signoras in green and white briskly stepped the cachuca, and Spanish senoras in vivid shawls of cerise and black, came to dance an old Spanish waltz.

French peasant girls, chic and vivacious in a spirited country measure, were followed by brightly dressed boys and girls of Holland in an old-fashioned clog dance. Britannia introduced the British Isles, who were represented first by the feminine fashions of the periods, the hoops and crinolines, bustles, panniers and all the other shapes and bumps that have been admired and worn. Then showing her contempt of them all, came little Miss 1928, short-skirted, short-haired and perky. All joined in a gavotte. The Caledonian Pipe Band and dancers represented Scotland, and Irish colleens did a jig. After all had taken their places about the ground there was a general march towards the platform.

Those taking part were:—

Japan.—Misses D. Norfolk, D. Hodge M. Hogg, B. Lawrence, V. Hooker, L. Lawrence, V. Ellis, M. Short, M. Hogg V. Hogg, M. Anderson, Mrs. Watson G. Riley.

China.—Misses A. Garcia, K. Day, T. Scown, Q. Ramshaw, K. Royce, D. Hunter, N. Ambury, A. Hay, T. Slyfield, J. Sinclair, A. Gentiles, B. Carey, D. Anderson, J. Thomas, J. Carter, D. Riding R. Pepper, M. Stoko, G. Simons, E. Corkill.

Turkey.—Misses K. Moyes, M. Jefferys, M. Grace, M. Zemba, E. Riley. B. Barras, T. Sullivan, M. Fookes, H. Ford I. Jasper, I. Govenlock, I. Healey, E. Healey, M. Wolfe, M. Try.

Greece. Misses B. Bush, B. Oldfield C. Partridge, T. Willis, T. McLean, F. Chapman, R. Jull, J. Smith, E. Dobson G. Reader, M. Joyce, D. Christie, M. Stevens, A. Smith, A. Wells, O. Masters, B. Patterson, R. Hore. M. Fuisseil, G. Neilson.

Italy.—Misses J. Hughes, N. Martin M. Sole, M. Hayton, E. Webber. J. Bateman, M. Campbell, J. Colliss. M. Phillips, S. Mackay, B. George, J. Mackay, Z. Featherstone, N. Lister, K. Chivers, G. Jenkins. N. Jenkins, M. Hill N. Garcia, G. Griffiths.

Spain.—Misses A. Parry, R. Dobson, E. Reynolds, E. Mullon, M. Harkness, N. Rawson, M. Jennings.

France.—Misses J. Tichbon, E. Cleland, E. Mooney, J. Brunton, J. Thomson.

Holland.—Misses N. Dell, K. Wood, M. Moyes, M. Hutchens, I. Chaney, E. Layman, B. Tyrell, M. Chaney, B. Sole.

England.—Miss B. Ponsford (Britannia), the Misses I. Harper, M. Makets, Mrs. Sheppard, Mrs. Ellis, C. Corley, K. Clarke, R. Harding.

Scotland.—Misses Anderston, Ashton, Keats, Roebuck (2).

Ireland.—Misses M. Buttermore, M. Rogers, C. Rogers, C. Roebuck, R. Cannon, C. Royce, W. Maugham, L. Williams.

The evening concluded merrily with competitions and dancing on the green, the music for which was provided by the Citizens' Band. The members of the Sportsground Committee and Park Board were assisted with the competitions.

On Saturday afternoon and evening the carnival will continue, there being a historic display by primary school children in the afternoon.

TDN, MARCH 16, 1928 **CRICKET IN PUKEKURA PARK** **TARANAKI V AUSTRALI** **AN INNINGS AND 177 RUNS** **TARANAKI TEAM DEFEATED**

The Australian touring cricket team defeated Taranaki by an innings and 177 runs in a match brought to a conclusion at Pukekura Park yesterday. To the overnight score of 364 for three wickets the remaining Australian bats men added only 63 runs, and Australia was all out for 427. Taranaki could muster up only 112 runs in their second innings.

TH, MARCH 21, 1928 **PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING**

The Pukekura Park Board met on Tuesday night, the chairman (Mr. F. Amoores) being in the chair. There were present: Messrs. G. M. Spence, J. McLeod, P. E. Stainton and the acting-superintendent (Mr. F. J. Morshead).

The acting-superintendent reported that the month had been a busy one for the staff, the southerly winds which had prevailed necessitating almost continuous attention to remove windfalls from the main paths. He had suspended the general cleaning up of rubbish pending cessation of the windy period, when it was hoped that a thorough job would be made. The several public functions held on the sportsground had also necessitated the provision of extra assistance there, occasionally for the groundsman. All spare time available had been spent trimming the bank in front of the fernery and depositing the spoil therefrom in the depression

opposite, some being used to improve the grade of the path leading past the old fernery entrance. In spite of the dry conditions still prevailing the vegetation retained its green appearance, especially in the gullies. The main lake was now 14 inches below its normal summer level and patrons were finding it a little inconvenient to step into the boats from the landing. Messrs. A Gaylard and H. Bruce kindly saved a number of the fish which languished in the dry pond at the hospital grounds. These, comprising perch, carp and several goldfish were liberated in the new pond in fernery gully. Donations of seeds had been received from Miss Ethel Smith and Messrs. Duncan and Davies. Messrs. Hayton and Little had kindly undertaken to rear a number of Muscovy ducks which had been hatched recently.

CARE OF SPORTSGROUND.

The wicket and outfield on the sports ground were in excellent condition, in spite of the dry weather. Mr. Richardson, captain of the Australian cricket eleven, stated that his team had not played on better one during the present tour in New Zealand. Besides preparation for the several functions, which had taken up a fair amount of the groundsman's time, and the preparation of wickets, time had been allotted to the trimming of the terraces and the boundary hedge was now being pruned.

VISITORS TO FERNERY.

Large numbers continued to visit the fernery and generally commented favourably on its very beautiful appearance and uniqueness in design. The begonias had been at top form during the month, while the ferns continued to grow luxuriously since the cooler weather set in. The temperature inside had been much lower, a decided advantage for the ferns and more comfortable for visitors. The superintendent pointed out that there were several open spaces which required filling up, especially in No. 3 chamber. and he suggested that the present season was a suitable time to collect for that purpose. He estimated that from 200 to 250 plants were required to complete planting.

OTHER MATTERS.

An expression of thanks was received from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for the practical assistance rendered by the board on the occasion of the visit to New Zealand of Dr. A. W. Hill, F.R.S. director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The arrangements made by the board to facilitate Dr. Hill's visit to make it interesting, useful and enjoyable and were much appreciated by both Dr. Hill and his council.

J. W. Ewart, cadet in the park, wrote tendering his resignation in order to gain wider experience at the Dunedin Botanical Gardens. It was decided to accept the resignation with regret and call applications to fill the vacancy.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Little and Hayton for their offer to rear ducklings in the park.

It was reported that several Maoris had been given the right to clear eels out of

the big lake under the acting-superintendent's supervision.

The chairman said that nominations for the new board to be formed under the Borough Council's control were due.

Arrangements in regard to the fernery were discussed and those present each agreed to be present on a certain Sunday to take control.

TH, APRIL 26, 1928

ANZAC DAY AT THE PARK

There was a very large assemblage at the park when the military procession entered the gates, and this was considerably swelled by the time the service commenced. The parade was one of the largest that has been seen and numbered 28 officers and 2293 other ranks, and the attendance of the public must have been in the vicinity of 6000. The parade was under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Jardine, D.S.O., M.C., officer commanding the Taranaki Regiment, who had with him Major Conway, Area Commander, and Captain-Adjutant Dykes (Lancashire Fusiliers).

The firing party led the parade, followed by the Regimental Band. The latter marched to a central position and played for the march past for the whole of the regiment, the salute being taken by Lieut.-Colonel. Cunningham, D.S.O., who had with him Lieut.-Colonel Home, C.B.E.. The various sections of the parade provoked applause from the large crowd, but the warmest recognition was reserved for the fine company of returned men who, under Captain MacDiarmid, created a profound impression. Territorials, Cadets, High School boys, Girl Guides, Girl Citizens, Girl Guards, High School girls, Boy Scouts, Veterans of the South African War and the Great War, Local Body representatives, the Citizens' Band and the Salvation Army and the Pipe Bands, together with the children of the primary schools, combined to make up a very impressive procession, and the march past and the assembling of the various units on the parade ground was followed with interest.

TH, MAY 2, 1928

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. F. Amoore (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. W. C. Weston H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, J. McLeod, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (hon. sec.) and F. Morshead (acting-superintendent).

An apology was received from Mr. C. E. Bellringer. M.P.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. Morehead in his monthly report stated that the very dry conditions which had prevailed for several months past continued throughout the greater portion of the period under review and the heavy rain which had fallen during the past week had been very welcome. Several of the rhododendrons in the dell were seriously affected by the dry conditions also some of the large azaleas, but he

was hoping that they would all recover eventually. Otherwise the vegetation had stood the adverse conditions fairly well. Previous to the rainfall the level of the main lake continued to fall reaching a fall of 2ft. on March 24 and a maximum low level of 2ft. 7in. below normal on April 23. As the water receded at the top of the lake the silt became dry and firm and three unemployment relief workers had been engaged since April 18 removing this and depositing same on the long Island. A considerable amount of silt had been already removed and he trusted that the board would authorise the completion of this necessary work while it was possible to carry on under fairly dry conditions. Three members of the staff were engaged assisting with this work for two and a-half days. Early in the month it was found necessary to provide steps at the boat landing to enable patrons to use the boats. With the exception of assistance rendered on the sportsground and that already noted in the lake the staff had been employed in general maintenance. The racecourse and Carrington Road walks received special attention, while the whole area between lower lake and Gilbert Street across to Victoria Road was cleaned and windfalls removed. The rose and flower beds had been weeded and couch which was growing in the rhododendron dell and azalea bed had been forked out. The flower bed in front of fernery had been remade and planted with anemone tubers which were growing well. Two young swans had been received from the Masterton Municipal Park and had settled down in their new quarters on the main lake. Mr. Hayton had released the ducklings which he undertook to rear and Mr. Little had advised that his batch was also sufficiently advanced to be released with safety. T. W. Rawson had commenced his duties on April 2, having been appointed to the cadetship vacated by W. Ewart and is engaged chiefly in the fernery.

THE SPORTS GROUND.

The cricket season ended in March and immediate steps were taken to prepare for the football season. The playing area was quickly defined and goal posts erected, this work being facilitated by the provision last spring of blocks defining the main points. Owing to the dry weather it was not possible to lift the Longburn wicket until last week, the replacement turf having been carted from Vogeltown.

THE FERNERY.

Large numbers of visitors continued to view the fernery and favourable comments thereon were numerous. The begonias still provided a good display but would not last much longer. He had purchased bouvardias, cinerarias and primulas in variety to replace these during the winter and spring months. Mr. Chas. Cameron, of Tauranga, who had visited the fernery during Easter had written offering to collect in his district a number of varieties which would be an acquisition to the collection already planted. Messrs. J. Wheeler and F. Parker had kindly acceded to his request for advice as to the best way to proceed with the improvements at the fernery

entrance. He hoped to proceed on the lines suggested during the present month.

It was decided to continue the work of cleaning out the upper lake as suggested by the acting superintendent.

Mr. Spence reported that Mrs. David Morrison had kindly donated a collection of Samoan ferns to the park.

Thanks were accorded Mrs. Morrison and Mr. Cameron for their donations.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

The secretary read a letter from the park superintendent, Mr. Horton who is at present in England wherein he made reference to the purchase of a special supply of rhododendrons. As it has been previously discussed by the board it was resolved that the secretary have £25 cabled to Mr. Horton for this purpose c/- High Commissioner's Office.

TH, JUNE 12, 1928

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S VISIT CITIZENS' RECEPTION

There was a gay scene at Pukekura Park this afternoon, when a public reception was tendered to their Excellencies in the Sportsground. A dais had been erected below the eastern terrace, on which were the Vice-Regal party, the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. C. E. Bellringer, M.P., and members of the Borough Council and their wives.

Beside this was a gallery of seats occupied by officials and citizens representative of various local bodies, who were afterwards presented to Sir Charles and Lady Fergusson. Facing the dais was a great gathering of pupils from the primary schools, Convent school, and secondary schools, together with Girl Guides and Brownies, Boy Scouts and Cubs, and Maori War Veterans.

As their Excellencies ascended the dais the school children sang the National Anthem.

The speeches of the Mayor and his Excellency the Governor-General were amplified by means of loudspeakers which carried the voices to all parts of the ground, so that the citizens on the terraces were all able to hear what was said. Near the conclusion of his Excellency's address the wind blew two of loud speakers over, and Sir Charles quickly grasped the situation and amused the youngsters by humorously suggesting that his voice was so strong at it had burst the loud speaker. As they were being re-erected he said he thought he could make himself heard without their aid, perhaps in proof of his assertion as to the strength of his voice.

TH, JULY 18, 1928

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday night, the chairman, Mr. F. Amooore, presiding.

There were also present: Messrs. W. C. Weston, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, J. McLeod, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton, hon. secretary.

Apologies were received from Messrs. H. Dempsey and R. C. Hughes.

The Borough Council notified that a subsidy of £300 had been granted to the board for the year ending March, 1929; also that the council had made provision in this year's estimates to enable the vote to be increased to £850 should the park be vested in the council this year.

The acting-superintendent, Mr. F. J. Morshead, reported that during the past few weeks boisterous and wet weather had been almost continuous, very few fine days having been experienced. Following the dry summer and autumn, falling leaves and branches had necessitated almost continuous effort to maintain the clean and tidy appearance necessary in a park of this nature. Visitors continued to visit the park in fairly large numbers even on fairly wet days. Very little revenue had been received from the boats, and the first opportunity would be taken to overhaul and paint them. With the exception of two rhododendrons in the dell, all other trees adversely affected during the dry spell had recovered.

He acknowledged a donation of a pair of white Muscovy ducks from Miss E. Trimble. Plants had been donated by Miss Devenish and Messrs. F. Parker and E. Zumbach, a large banana tree by Mr. Hancock, Fitzroy; ferns by Messrs. E. Maxwell, Rahotu; C. J. Sheppard, of Wanganui and Davis and Mackie, of Otakeho. The fountain and marble slab had been thoroughly cleaned, the furze, etc., grubbed and burnt along Victoria Road, all hedges trimmed, roses pruned, and canna beds cleaned up. One anemone bed was coming into bloom and should make a good display during the coming three months.

In spite of the fact that two senior football games had been played on most Saturdays during the season, the playing area was in very good condition excepting the turfing which replaced the Longburn wicket, the latter work having been delayed owing to the dry autumn and had not had time to consolidate.

The fernery continued to attract a fair number of visitors, who commented favourably on its appearance. The donations acknowledged above included 14 species and varieties not previously received. Some of them, notably several sent by Mr. Shepherd, are rare and a decided acquisition to the collection. Work at the fernery entrance had been continued, being now nearly completed, and was a decided improvement. The ferns had been re-labelled where necessary to conform with the new classification of New Zealand ferns. The concrete table-tops donated by Mr. Geo. Smith, of Frankley Road, had been received at the park and stored pending a decision as to where they shall be placed.

Hearty thanks were accorded to various donors mentioned in the report.

TH, JULY 18, 1928
PUKEKURA PARK
DISSOLUTION OF BOARD
VESTING IN COUNCIL.

The special committee of the Borough Council appointed to meet representatives of the Pukekura park Board with a view to considering the

question of the dissolution of the board and the vesting of the reserve in the council reported that a meeting had been held on July 6 at which there were present.

The Mayor (Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths), Councillors J. Brown, T. M'Phillips and S. G. Smith (representing the council), and Messrs. F. Amooore, P. E. Stainton and H. Dempsey (representing the board).

The representatives of the board intimated that a petition had been prepared, requesting the Governor General to dissolve the board under the Taranaki Botanic Act, 1876, and to vest the park in the council, but that the board was not prepared to send the petition forward unless and until the council undertook to pay off the whole of the board's liabilities, estimated at between £800 and £900.

Subject to confirmation by the council and the board, it was arranged that an agreement embodying the following terms and conditions should be drawn up and signed by all parties before the petition is sent forward: (a) That the board immediately proceed to pay off all its liabilities by means of a bank overdraft, and to get in all moneys due to it in order that the whole of the board's liabilities may be represented by such bank overdraft.

(b) That thereupon the petition for the dissolution of the board be forwarded to the Governor-General.

(c) That immediately upon the board being dissolved by the Governor under the Taranaki Botanic Gardens Act, 1876, and the park vested in the council, the council will pay off the whole of the board's liabilities, the individual members of the board jointly and severally guaranteeing that such liabilities do not exceed £900.

(d) That immediately upon the board being dissolved as hereinbefore mentioned, the council shall appoint under, and subject to, the provisions of Part VI of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1920, a committee to manage and control Pukekura Park, such committee to consist of as many of the present members of the Park Board as are willing to act, and such other persons as the council may desire to appoint.

(e) That the individual members of the present board shall personally guarantee that the committee appointed under the preceding clause, or any committee appointed in substitution thereof, will, within four years from the date of the dissolution of the board, refund to the council the total amount paid by it under clause (c) hereof in liquidation of the liabilities of the board.

That all Declarations of Trust and other documents already agreed upon by the board and the council be sealed and signed and all trust moneys be set aside by the board to their respective trusts.

The council's committee recommend that the following resolution be adopted by the council: "That the arrangement made between representatives of the council and of the board as above set forth be confirmed by the council and that any payments to be made by the

council under the agreement hereinbefore mentioned be made under the provisions of Sec. 302 (1) of The Municipal Corporations Act, 1920, and in accordance with the opinion expressed by the controller and auditor general in his letter to the council of June 7, 1928.

TH, SEPTEMBER 18, 1928

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, the followings being present: Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), J. McLeod, W. C. Weston, R. C. Hughes, and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. G. M. Spence and H. Dempsey.

The acting-superintendent (Mr. F. J. Morshead) reported that the fairly fine weather recently had enable the staff to complete all of the permanent improvements which were reported on at the last meeting of the board, besides minor improvements. The rowing boats had been repaired and painted ready for the coming summer. All flower beds had been cleaned and dug, and similar seasonal work carried out. The bed of anemones planted near the fernery had been in full bloom during the past month, providing a magnificent display of vivid colours and an added attraction to visitors. A Canadian gander had been received from Naumai Park, Hawera, and a collection of native shrubs sent in exchange. Plants had been donated by Messrs. J. Bain and, Q. Watkins, collections of ferns by Mr. C. Cameron (Tauranga) and Mr. Mackie (Otakeho). The former sent a very fine collection of ferns, many of which were rare species and varieties. Mr. J. Wheeler donated a pedestal and two rustic hanging baskets. Mr. L. J. Wright (Wanganui) had sent, per Mrs. Nicholls (Otakeho), a root of the rare species *Davallia Tasmanii*, which was found only on the Three Kings Islands. The sports-ground playing area was in good condition considering the large number of games played on it during the football season, the only weakness being the patch of turfing laid after the football season had commenced. The practice wickets were in course of preparation, and should be in excellent condition for the opening of the cricket season. The Longburn soil wicket was doing well. Soil and sand for top-dressing had been sifted, and all preparation work for the coming cricket season was well forward. Work on the bank in front of the fernery had been completed and the terrace planted, while the enclosed area above had been cleared, stumps being removed. The area in front had been planted with tree-ferns and the surface prepared for sowing down with grass seed. The unsightly front fence had been moved back, leaving the entrance and surroundings open. Begonia tubers had been planted in trays, and many showed already signs of renewed growth, while the ferns were beginning to show their new season's growth of fronds. The fern collection now comprised 112 recognised species and varieties, besides many local variations of the types which had been

collected and sent in by interested collectors.

A vote of thanks was accorded the donors of the various plants and ferns as reported by the acting-superintendent.

The chairman remarked that the park was at present looking remarkably well, the fernery and precincts especially showing great improvement. The state of the park was a credit to the acting-superintendent (Mr. Morshead). He added that the work of putting the roof of the fernery had been held up owing to the particularly rainy weather recently. The work would be completed during the coming summer.

Mr. Stainton advised that the Park Tennis and Croquet Club had approached him regarding the existence of an agreement between the club and the board. No trace of an agreement had been found, and it was supposed, that the renewal of the lease and the terms of it were arranged by the board year by year. It had been pointed out to him that an increase in the rental might mean that many younger members would leave the club owing to the necessarily increased subscription. This would mean a greater burden to old members who were at present guarantors for a considerable amount expended on improvements. Mr. Stainton suggested that the lease might be renewed at the same rental, £7 10s. The chairman agreed to the suggestion, and it was decided to renew the lease at the same rental.

It was stated by Mr. Stainton that there were still some difficulties that would have to be removed before the park could be finally handed over to the Borough Council. Lands obtained by the board before the Botanical Gardens Act of 1876 did not come under the Act, and a separate agreement would have to be entered into regarding these lands with the Borough Council. The chairman said that there were still some unformed roads running through the park which were vested in the Crown. The co-operation of the Deeds Office had been obtained to put the titles in order, and it was hoped that proceedings would be finalised shortly.

The North Taranaki Cricket Association wrote thanking the board for its assistance during the past season, when representative matches were played, and for the interest the board had taken in the game.

It was decided to authorise Messrs. McLeod and Stainton to make arrangements for a fireworks display at the park on the evening of November 5.

DECEMBER 12, 1928

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. F. Amoore (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, W. C. Weston, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent). Apologies were received from Messrs. R. C. Hughes, G. M. Spence, and J. McLeod.

The chairman extended a cordial welcome to Mr. Horton on his return

from his trip abroad and expressed the hope that he was fully restored to health. In fact this was obvious, said Mr. Amoore, when one saw the energy with which Mr. Horton had resumed his duties.

Mr. Horton thanked the board and said he certainly had benefited in health as a result of his trip, which had been a most enjoyable one.

Mr. Horton reported having returned safely from his recent tour and resumed his duties on October 12. During his absence everything appeared to have been well cared for and the growth of the ferns and other plants in the fernery pleased him very much. Under instructions from the chairman Mr. Morshead continued work until November 9. Since he had resumed, the staff had attended to all the important and necessary work of the park. All borders and beds had been dug and overhauled, useless and unnecessary plants dug out others divided and replanted, annuals purchased and put in and these portions of the park were now in good order and promised well for making a good display for the summer and autumn. Noxious weeds such as gorse, broom, blackberry, and fennel, which was coming up all over the park had been grubbed out except in the portion comprising the gully in Fillis Street, next to Mr. Rutherford's. The upper lake, where the coloured water lilies are, had been cleaned out and a small rustic bridge erected across the stream at the far end. A punga fence had been erected on the dam bank near the new lake. New steps had been put in where they had been broken and several new planks had been put in to replace those that were either broken or unsafe on the bridges. He had received a boat from the Rotokare Park authorities which he understood from Mr. V. C. Davies was loaned to the park for an indefinite period. It was a fine large roomy boat and should be a great help to the park in the holiday season. The fernery was in good condition with the exception that it leaked badly (when heavy rain comes) in the portion that had not been puttied. He understood this work would soon be put in hand. The ferns and other plants were in good order and doing well. Several new varieties had recently come to hand and the board's thanks were due to Messrs. Cameron, of Tauranga, Mackie, of Hawera, and F. J. Morshead, who had assisted so materially in the work of collecting. They now had the most complete collection of New Zealand ferns in the Dominion and he was hopeful that the time was not far distant, when the collection will be absolutely complete. The few required were being sought for by collectors who were intensely interested in the fernery. Begonias were being grown with a view of adding colour and beauty to the interior of the glass houses. These were doing exceptionally well. Mr. and Mrs. Sargood, of Dunedin, who were visitors to the park recently had promised to donate some blue water lilies (*Nymphaea braziliensis*). These were to come from Western Australia and would be a decided acquisition to the collection

already in the park. Since his return a cricket pitch had been put down in the sportsground with Longburn soil, making a total of three pitches now in the centre of the playing area. These, together with six practice pitches, provided sufficient accommodation for present requirements. A good portion of the playing area had been top-dressed. Grass on the terraces was now being cut and generally speaking this part of the board's property was in very good order and condition. There was, however, one exception and that was the roadway to the park through the sportsground. This was breaking up badly many parts and loose stones were a menace and a nuisance. A permanent suitable roadway was urgently necessary. He drew special attention to the urgent necessity of the park superintendent residing in or near the park. The reason was obvious. He quite understood why this had not been possible but he thought the difficulty could be overcome and he would be pleased to discuss this matter with the board or with a sub-committee.

The chairman said he had always held it would be much better for the superintendent to live in the park. Much of the vandalism would thus be stopped. The chairman and Messrs. Bellringer and Stainton were appointed a sub-committee to confer with Mr. Horton.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the various donors mentioned in the report and to the Rotokare Reserve committee for the loan of a boat.

It was decided that permission be granted to the Queen Alexandra Band, Wanganui, to give a recital at the park on the evening of January 1, on terms to be arranged. The band forwarded a cheque for £5 11s 6d, being 15 per cent. of the gross takings at the recital given on Sunday, October 21.

Mrs. D. le C. Morgan, honorary secretary of the Plunket Society, wrote suggesting the board nominate a delegate to attend a meeting to be arranged early in the year, for the purpose of formulating a programme of dates on which the various societies propose to conduct their campaign for funds.

It was decided that the board be represented at the meeting, the appointment of a delegate being deferred until a subsequent meeting.

A number of accounts were passed for payment.

**DECEMBER 14, 1928
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

PRESENT: Messrs. F. Amoore, W. C. Weston, C. E. Bellringer, W. Short, H. Dempsey, J. McLeod, and P. E. Stainton.

The Chairman reported that the object of the meeting was to complete the documents in connection with the transfer of the park to the Borough Council.

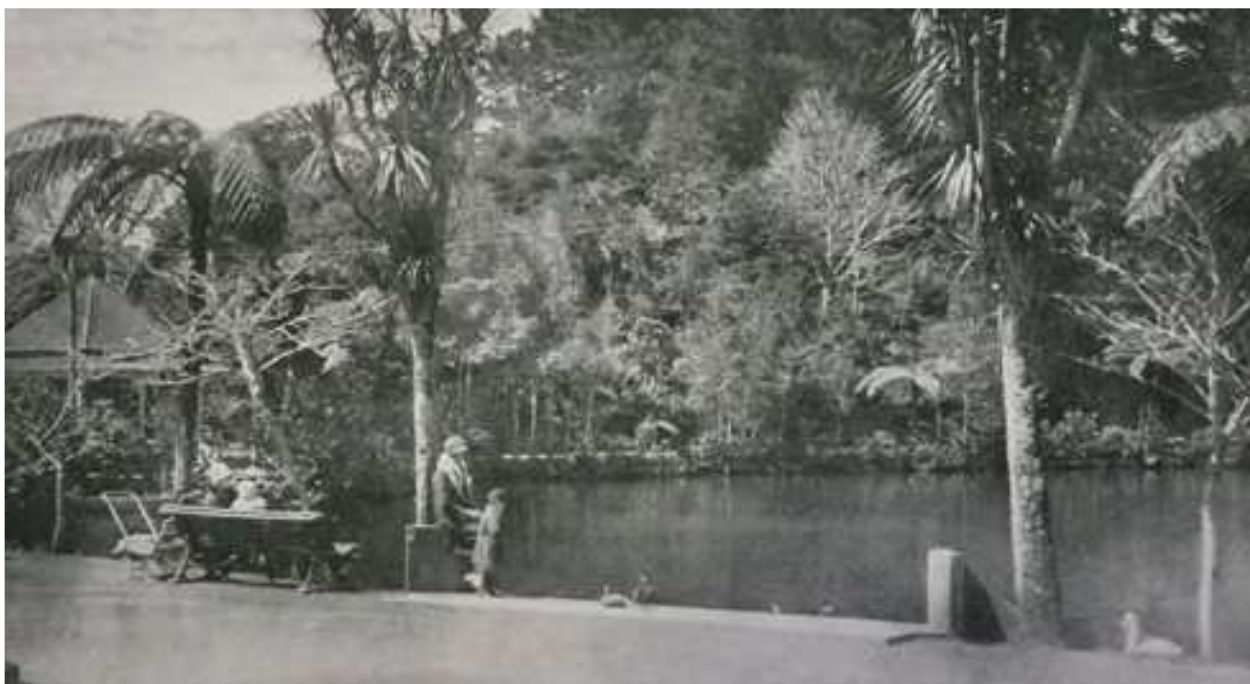
**GUARANTEE OF BOARD TO
BOROUGH COUNCIL, FOR £900.**

Mr. Bellringer raised the point that no mention was made in the Guarantee about the continuance of the subsidy of £850 for a period of not less than 4 years. After a general discussion it was resolved on the motion of Messrs. Bellringer and Weston that Messrs. McLeod, Weston and Stainton wait on the Solicitors for the Borough Council and the Park Board and arrange to have the necessary Clause inserted ensuring that the Joint and Several of Guarantee operate only in the event of the £850 subsidy continuing during this period of the Guarantee.

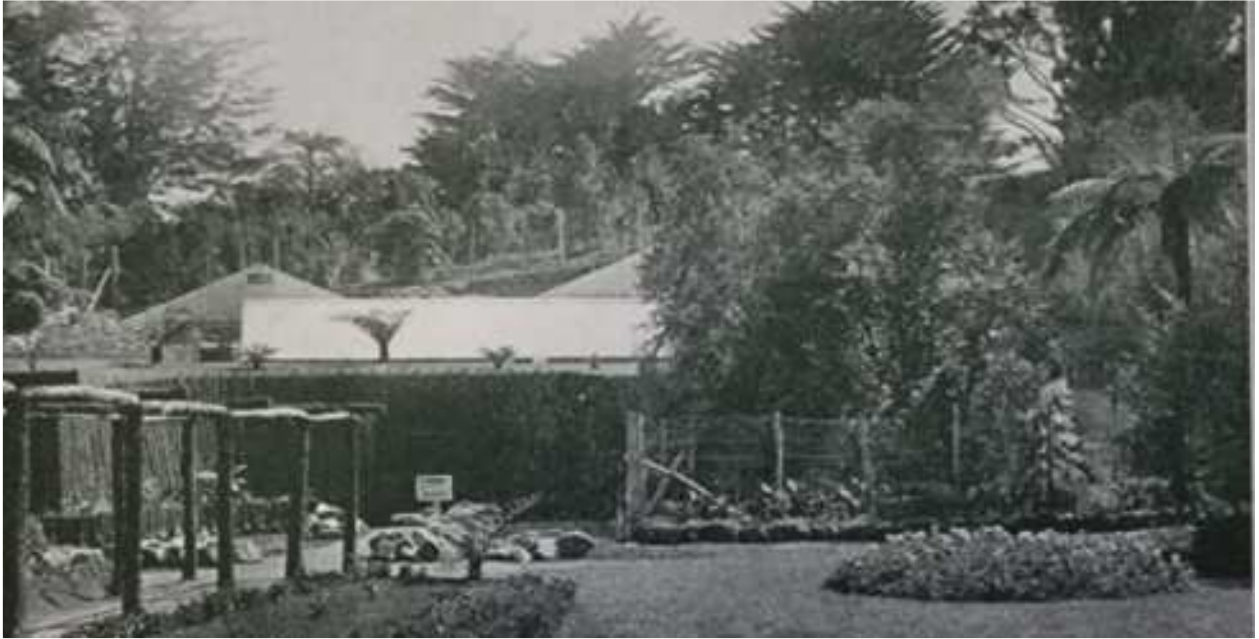
**PETITION OF GOVERNOR-
GENERAL.**

Subject to the above Conditions being agreed to by the Council the following resolution was moved by Messrs. Bellringer and McLeod and carried unanimously: -

That a petition be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General by the Members of the Board in terms of Section 18 of the Taranaki Botanic Gardens Act, 1876, praying for the dissolution of the Board.



Main Lake. *Taranaki Herald Xmas Supp*, December 15, 1928



Views inside and outside of the Fernery.
Taranaki Herald Xmas Supp, December 15, 1928



1929

The main event of the year was the handing over of the park to the Borough Council. In his diary on October 17, Horton wrote, "This has been a "Red letter day" in this Park's history. A great function was held, at which the Deeds of the Park were handed over to the Mayor by Mr. Amooore. Appropriate speeches were made & Mr. R. C. Hughes gave a resume of the Park's early history. After the Mayor had planted a Memorial Kauri tree, afternoon tea was served & a donation of £100 was received."

Several trees that had been planted on the opening day of the Recreation Ground on May 29, 1876, were marked with plaques to highlight their significance. These were: 1. Pinus Insignus planted by Miss Jane Carrington. 2. Rimu and Puriri, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes Senior; 3. Specimen pinus insignus above the lily pond; 4. Norfolk Island Pine, Mrs. Thomas Colson; 5. English Yew, Mrs. T. K. Skinner. Some of these trees may exist today, but unfortunately it is not known for certain. For a full account of the ceremony read the Taranaki Herald articles from October 17 and 18.

When the Borough Council took over the park it advanced the board £900 to cover debt, which the board had to repay within five years, however, the value of any permanent improvements done in the park were to be deducted from the sum to be repaid.

A new propagating house was built near the entrance of the fernery, paid for by donations. Before it was built one of the rooms in the fernery had been used for this purpose.

The main entrance was tar sealed and a turning circle put in.

Plant Donations Included:

Mr. C. Saunders—a very fine collection of ornamental and flowering shrubs; Mr. J. Wheeler, a punga pedestal for the fernery; Mrs. Richmond (Auckland), seeds. Mr. H. R. McKenzie, shrubs.



A PRETTY CORNER OF THE PARK.—This section of Pukekura Park has been much improved lately. The fernery is seen in the background, with the new propagating house on the right. The rockery in front of the fernery entrance will look well when completed.

Outside the Fernery. *Taranaki Herald*, October 18, 1929

TH, FEBRUARY 13, 1929

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. Amoore (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, R. C. Hughes, H. Dempsey, J. McLeod, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, G. M. Spence, P. E. Stainton (hon. sec.), and T. Horton (superintendent).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. Horton reported that the park had been maintained in good order and condition. The usual work necessary for the growth and protection of trees, flower beds etc., had been regularly attended to and the rough grass on the hill tops and on the outskirts of the park had been cut and burned. Owing, however, to the season being so favourable for growth a large area of this required to be done again. Gorse, fennel and blackberry had been grubbed out and, as far as possible with the staff, all essential work of this nature had been attended to. An extra man had been engaged to help with the mowing as was usual at this season of the year.

The rhododendrons selected and purchased by Mr. Horton when in England had come to hand in excellent order and were planted in the nursery to be acclimatised. He was pleased to say that there was not one plant in the whole importation that was not healthy and doing well. This was due entirely to fact that he was able to arrange for cool storage freight. The extra cost for this was proved to be quite justified.

He regretted having to report that the Wiggins Memorial was broken by vandals on Sunday night, January 27. On being advised of this on the next morning he at once communicated with the police, Mr. F. Amoore, and the manager of the Bank of New South Wales. He was advised by the latter that the work of restoration was being undertaken by Mr. Wiggins, of the Bank of New Zealand here.

Two or three small rustic bridges, with handrails of punga had been put in where hitherto only old planks were used as bridges.

He had not been able to repair or rebuild the bridge at the far end of the park near the Brooklands entrance because material for stringers was not available. Old railway rails were best for this purpose, and he suggested these be procured so that the work could be put in hand promptly.

The fernery was doing very well, the growth of all kinds being well maintained and in some varieties it had been phenomenal. The begonias introduced for decorative effect had been quite satisfactory and visitors from all parts had been loud in their appreciation.

The sports ground area was in splendid order. Cricketers had spoken appreciatively of the good condition of both the practice and game wickets. The grass on the terraces and banks had been cut when necessary and this part of the board's property had not been neglected.

The carriage drive (as he told the in his last report) was still rough and troublesome and he did not think there

would be much improvement until it was tar-sealed. The attendance during the holidays had been larger than at any time during the five years he had been at the park.

The matter of obtaining rails for the bridge as suggested by the superintendent was left in the hands of Mr. Bellringer and the superintendent.

Documents concerning the vesting of the park in the borough were presented for signature. These will be sent forward to the Governor-General for ratification, following which the board will be dissolved.

The question of the renewal of a lease for 21 years to Mr. C. E. Bellringer from July 1 was discussed and it was decided to appoint Mr. L. A. Nolan as the board's arbitrator in connection with the valuation.

TH, MARCH 13, 1929

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), R. C. Hughes, C. E. Bellringer, H. Dempsey, J. McLeod, W. F. Short, A. T. Moore, G. M. Spence, P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent). An apology was received from Mr. W. C. Weston.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, reported that the special feature and attention for the month had been the flower beds and borders, which had been very gay with their brilliant and varied colours. The begonias in the fernery had been in full bloom and visitors had expressed their appreciation. The balance of the unprepared area adjoining the rhododendrons had been trenched and prepared for planting next winter. Two new flower beds had been made and planted with anemones and ranunculus and would make an attractive display during the winter months. The boat takings had fallen off considerably, but the attendance at the fernery was still very satisfactory. The necessary work on the sports ground had been done and this part of the board's property as well as the main area in the park was in very fair order and Condition.

The chairman said he had never seen the fernery and park looking better than it was to-day and the superintendent said that during the last few months well over £5 had been placed in the donation box by appreciative visitors who had already paid for admission.

Mr. McLeod referred to the remarkable growth of the kauri trees in the park.

Permission was given to the Salvation Army Band to play in the park on Easter Sunday afternoon.

The Mayor wrote thanking the board for willing assistance, rendered in connection with the entertainment of the officers and men of H.M.S. Dunedin.

The chairman was requested to approach Mr. S. G. Smith, M.P., with a view to getting the Minister of Internal Affairs to expedite the completion of the vesting of the park in the Borough Council.

TH, APRIL 3, 1929

**CARE OF PUKEKURA PARK
METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION
NEW MACHINERY ADOPTED.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES DISSOLVED.

After 50 years of excellent service, which was highly commended by the Borough Council on Tuesday night, the Board of Trustees for Pukekura Park has been dissolved.

Its lands have been vested in or transferred to the council, and the council is now putting into action new machinery for the administration of the park, which, by reason of its size and importance, has become too much for a board dependent entirely upon voluntary subscription to handle.

In the course of certain resolutions passed by the council on Tuesday night, a committee, to be termed "The Pukekura Park Committee" was appointed, comprising Messrs. F. Amoore, R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, C. E. Bellringer, J. McLeod, P. E. Stainton, G. M. Spence, M. Dempsey, and the Mayor, to administer and control the park, subject to provisions that the council shall not be committed to any expenditure or liability, but that all management, maintenance and improvements shall be met from the council's subsidy and the revenue from the park lands.

Authority was given for the payment of the Pukekura Park Board's liabilities by the council up to £900, and another resolution fixed the council's grant for the year ending March 31, 1930, together with the share of revenue reserved to the park by "The New Plymouth Recreation and Racecourse Reserve Amendment Act, 1910" to be paid in quarterly instalments.

"The board is handing to the borough one of the town's greatest assets," remarked Councillor Stainton.

NOT UNDERSTOOD.

"One of the greatest responsibilities," rejoined Councillor Smith, who pointed out that the borough was striking a rate for the park for the first time. Though personally he was satisfied that the transfer was in the best interests of the borough, he would say frankly that the explanations of the board's affairs had not been made quite plain to the public. At the same time, successive members of the board had done wonderful work over a period of 53 years, and, even in the earlier days, visitors from all parts of the world had left impressed with the park's beauties. He intended to move a vote of thanks to the board.

This provoked Councillor Stainton to remark that he thought it out of place for Councillor Smith to move a vote of thanks if he was not satisfied. The board's affairs had often been explained publicly. It had to be remembered that there was an area of 60 acres to keep in order, and that the borough had contributed only £300 a year. It was obvious that when the park had reached a certain stage of development that sum must be augmented in order to maintain the standard. He thought it had been agreed that it was the duty of the Borough Council to ensure that the state

of the park should not go back by asking everybody to pay a fair quota. It should not go out to the public that the transfer was not in the best interests of the ratepayers.

Councillor Smith said he was satisfied that it was so, but sufficient explanation had not been made at the council table.

Councillor Pentecost admitted he was not absolutely clear upon all the details but was satisfied the right step had been taken. It should have been done years ago.

The Mayor said a stage of development had been reached where they could not expect voluntary contributions to maintain the park. It was essential to have some assured revenue.

The addition of the Mayor to the committee was made by the meeting at the suggestion of Councillor Stainton, who was formerly secretary of the dissolved board. It would fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Moore. and also ensure a continuity of interest now that the council had assumed control. He also intimated that one or two of those mentioned as members of the committee had expressed a desire to be relieved of membership, though they would still be liable for the guarantee to the bank.

Councillor S. G. Smith expressed the opinion that the council should have a fixed representation on the committee if it was taking over the whole of the responsibilities.

COMMITTEE'S LIABILITIES.

Councillor Stainton corrected him, pointing out that the council was lending the board £900 to facilitate the transfer, and that the members would liquidate that debt.

Councillor Smith replied that the responsibility would be on the council if every member of the committee withdrew. He thought the council should have two or three representatives. The arrangement was not for the immediate future alone, but everlasting.

Attention was drawn by Councillor Amoores, formerly chairman of the Park Board to the fact that the board had been increased to ten long ago by the addition of three representatives of the council.

The following motion was then moved by Councillor Smith and carried: -

"That the council records high sense of appreciation of the very valuable services rendered to the town of New Plymouth and district by the various members of the Pukekura Park Board from the inception of the original board down to the present day."

Councillors supported the resolution with expressions of appreciation of the work achieved.

The Mayor said that for 50 years the park had been maintained by men who had their heart and soul in the work, and in laying the burden down now they were entitled to the highest commendation the council could give them.

Councillor Amoores acknowledged the council's tribute and remarked that members hoped to liquidate their responsibilities in the near future. It would be a great help to the committee

to have an assured revenue instead of having repeatedly to be going to the public. The park had become a renowned spot, and he assured the council the committee would endeavour to continue its development on the sound lines upon which it had been started.

TH, MAY 15, 1929

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. F. Amoores (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, G. M. Spence, R. C. Hughes, J. McLeod, P. E. Stainton (hon. sec.) and the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton). Apologies were received from Messrs. W. C. Weston and H. Dempsey.

Mr. Horton reported that during the month the staff had been fully engaged in the usual maintenance work. The storm experienced in March did quite a deal of damage to many trees, breaking branches off and otherwise injuring them, but all had been trimmed up and the whole place was now in fair order again. Two new flower beds had been made near the fernery and in which anemones and ranunculus had been planted but he regretted having to report that at least 200 bulbs had been stolen, making it necessary to purchase more to fill the gaps.

Branches and growth of ferns, etc., likely to interfere with electric light wires had been removed. Advantage had been taken of the seasonable weather for sowing grass seed on all the weak places in the lawns and on the paths.

The two 30ft. steel rails procured from the Harbour Board had been delivered and would be placed in position at the first opportunity.

The following gifts had been received: From Mr. C. Saunders—a very fine collection of ornamental and flowering shrubs; Mr. J. Wheeler, a punge pedestal for the fernery; Mr. M'Kenzie (chairman of the Auckland Harbour Board), a pure bred white Muscovy drake; Mrs. Richmond (Auckland), seeds.

As opportunity offered he was pushing on with the completion of the work of improvements near the fernery. It would be essential to build a small conservatory and propagating house before very long in which to raise and grow flowering plants for the fernery.

A site was being excavated for this building and he asked that the structure be proceeded with before next spring. Ten guineas had been promised towards the cost and he thought there would be very little difficulty in getting the required amount. Seating accommodation had been provided for 40 more people.

At the sports ground a lot of improvements had recently been effected. The press stand had been removed from the ground level to the third terrace; the terrace paths had been metalled where required; manure had been sown on the whole playing area and the steps on the terraces had been returfed.

The fernery was still an attraction to visitors, but the attendance had fallen considerably, which of course was only to be expected at this season of the year.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the various donors mentioned in the report.

The chairman said the work done at the sports ground would be a charge on the Sports Ground Committee.

A sub-committee was appointed to go into the question of a propagating house as mentioned in the report.

It was decided to accede to the request of the Farmers' Union and allow a party of 150 Southland farmers to visit the fernery on the occasion of their visit to New Plymouth.

A committee consisting of Messrs. Spence, McLeod and Stainton was appointed to go into the whole question of finance and report to the next meeting of the board.

A plan and estimate of cost—£264—of asphaltting the road into the sports ground and providing a turning basin for cars, prepared by Mr. Clarke, borough engineer, was submitted and it decided to ask Mr. Clarke to meet the board on the ground and discuss the matter.

TH, JUNE 12, 1929

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING BOARD'S FINAL MEETING THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

The last meeting of the Pukekura Park Board as at present constituted was held on Tuesday evening, there being present: Messrs. F. Amoores (chairman), W. Short, H. Dempsey, G. M. Spence, H. V. S. Griffiths, W. C. Weston, Jas. McLeod and P. E. Stainton (hon. sec.)

The chairman extended a welcome to Mr. Griffiths, a newly appointed member of the board who, in his reply, said that he had been on the board some years ago as a representative of the Borough Council.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The chairman reported that the period under review had been perhaps the most eventful one in the history of the park. The fernery had been built and had proved an unqualified success. The unsightly swamp had been filled in, thus turning what was once an eye-sore into a beautiful corner of the park. The interest in the fernery had been well maintained even through the winter months. The superintendent (Mr. Horton) had been granted six months' leave of absence to visit Britain and brought back a valuable collection of rhododendrons and other plants which were now being acclimatised. During his absence his place was ably filled by the temporary appointment of Mr. F. Morshead. The outstanding feature of the year had been the taking over of the park by the Borough Council. The old Park Board now ceased to exist and its place would be taken by a borough committee, consisting of all the old members of the board, together with his Worship the Mayor. In this connection it was pleasing to note that one of the charter members of the board (Mr. R. C. Hughes) was still with them and going strong after over 50 years' service. Under the new regime the

committee would be relieved of the financial responsibility in a great measure, the borough finding a subsidy of £850 per annum. A propagating house or nursery was now being erected through the generosity of some of the townspeople and this, when completed, would prove a great boon to the superintendent and also enable the chamber in the fernery, at present used for this purpose, to be put to other uses. Advantage was taken of the dry spell to clean out the upper lake. This was accomplished with the aid of the Returned Soldiers' Association. He trusted that the coming year would see a superintendent's house erected in the park which in his opinion, was an urgent want. In conclusion he thanked the superintendent and all members of the staff for the loyalty and courtesy shown him during his term. He trusted they would long be spared to keep the park the beautiful place it now was.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

In his report the superintendent, Mr. T. H. Horton, said that shingle was being put on the most slippery paths. Where necessary paths would be reformed and water tables opened up before putting it on. The storm in May brought down many branches and a few tree ferns etc. and made the park in a dilapidated state. All had been cleared up and the park was now in good order. The new rockery and pergola at the fernery approach was now completed and ready for planting. A new fence had been erected at the Brooklands Road corner. A completely new bridge over the creek at the far end of the park had also been built. On the top of the John Street hill they had planted 47 more pohutukawa trees, which made a total of 75 planted at this spot. These would ultimately make an effective breakwind for the sportsground from northerly and mountain gales. On the sportsground area the re-erection of the iron fence had been completed and a post and rail fence erected for the full length of the northern side and the path along the same side reformed and shingled.

NEW PROPAGATING HOUSE.

He was pleased to say that the gifts and donations made by a few friends had made it possible to erect the propagating house (at a cost of about £100) without any cost to the board. Most of the material was now on the site and the foundations were now being put in under the direction of Mr. Amooore. When completed the house would be a distinct and valuable addition to the plant.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Amooore was re-elected chairman and Mr. Stainton hon. Secretary. Messrs. R. W. Tate, S.M., and F. Parker are to be approached with a view to their consent being obtained for nomination for seats on the board.

The chairman reported that an agreement had been reached between the board and the council as to the conditions of control of the latter over the park.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

The balance-sheet from April, 1927, showed the following main items of receipts:— Sundry donations, £80; proceeds from entertainments, £218 3s

4d; New Plymouth Borough Council subsidies, £1025; rent, sportsground committee, £364 11s 8d; sundry rents, £125 10s; cash of boats and fernery, £604 2s 3d; withdrawals Savings Bank, £496 17s 3d; Attrill bequest, £100 12s 6d; Freeth bequest, £48; Borough Council under guarantee £887 17s 1d; total £3994 17s 11d.

The main items paid out were: - Wages, £2701; materials, repairs, and general maintenance, £450 1s; expenses re entertainments and fireworks displays, £127 0s 4d; plants, £55 18s; legal expenses, £56 17s 4d; deposits Savings Bank, £558 12s 6d; total, £3994 17s 11d.

The £800 odd shown in the receipts has been paid by the Borough Council, the board having guaranteed to repay it in four years.

The finance committee reported that a meeting of the committee had been held on June 6. The secretary had reported that the borough subsidy per year for four years, inclusive of the present year, was £850. Of this year's subsidy £112 10s has been received and a further payment was due on July 1, 1929.

The present position was as follows:— Bank credit, £89 8s 6d; balance subsidy, £637 10s; carnival balance, £64 15s 3d; total, £791 3s 9d.

The estimated revenue to March 31, 1930, was: - Boats, £75; fernery, £225; wages, sports committee, £125; rents, etc., £50; total £475. This made an estimated total revenue available of £1266 3s 9d.

Estimated expenditure to March 31, 1930 was: - Wages, £936; sundries, £100; total £1036.

After going carefully into details the committee had agreed that a very careful policy must be adhered to for the next two or three years in order to be in a position to meet commitments to the Borough Council four years hence. The estimated receipts and expenditure are as follows: - Receipts: Borough subsidy £850; fernery receipts, £250; Boats, £100; sports committee, £175; rents, etc., £75; total, £1450. Expenditure: Wages, £1352; sundries, £150; total, £1502.

The above figures showed a debit balance of £52 per annum, but no allowance had been made for interest that would be due from the Newton King bequest.

Mr. Spence considered that the revenue from the boats and the fernery had amounted to a very satisfactory sum, which had meant much to the board.

"I think the erection of the fernery was the wisest thing we ever did," said the chairman. Every visitor spoke well of it, and the Minister of Industries, the Hon. J. G. Cobbe, had that morning said that he had seen nothing like it in New Zealand.

Mr. Griffiths also testified to the Hon. Mr. Cobbe's admiration of the fernery.

Mr. Spence thought that the statement of receipts and expenditure was ample justification for the board having vested the park in the council. When they had to pay £2701 in wages it was getting rather beyond the functions of a voluntary body

like the board. The fact that in two year they had handled just under £4000 spoke volumes regarding the immense amount of work done by the secretary.

Members were agreed on the necessity of watching expenditure carefully in the future. It was thought that special efforts would have to be made to raise funds for any important improvements or capital expenditure.

Messrs. Hughes and Spence were of opinion that the fernery should be more extensively advertised and that electric light should be installed, so that it could be open on some evenings.

PROPOSED TURNING PLACE.

A plan of the proposed new turning place which it is hoped to construct at the sportsground was before the board. It was stated that the Works Committee of the Borough Council had in hand a sum of money which they had expected to spend in another way in the park, and it was hoped that it would agree to the money being spent in this manner. Members were agreed as to the urgency of the work and the impossibility of doing it without the assistance of the council. Messrs. McLeod, Short, Weston, Dempsey and Hughes were deputed to wait on the council in regard to the matter.

HANDING THE PARK OVER.

The sub-committee set up to arrange the ceremony of officially handing the park over to the borough stated that it was proposed to invite members of the council and those who had been closely connected with the park to be the guests of the board on this occasion. It had also been thought appropriate that Mr. R. C. Hughes should carry out the ceremony. The committee proposes to have certain historic trees in the park marked for the occasion with boards giving their history.

The committee was authorised to finalise arrangements.

Quoting from his diary, Mr. Hughes found recorded on June 30, 1875, the passage of the Recreation Ground Bill through the Provincial Council. On August 3 the first members of the controlling body had inspected the site of what is now the park. On the Queen's Birthday in 1876 (May 29), it had been officially opened, and Miss Jane Carrington had planted the first tree, which is still in existence. Mr. "Tom" King and the superintendent of the park had spoken, and the "pro fanum vulgus," led by Mr. Hughes himself, had cheered all connected with the ceremony. On this occasion Mr. Hughes, his sister and mother had planted a tree.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Weston for the use of his room for board meetings. Further votes of thanks were passed to Messrs. Duff and Wynyard for auditing the board's accounts free of charge, and the borough engineer for his work in connection with the turning place in the park. The board also extended its best wishes to Mr. Jas. McLeod in his forthcoming tour as manager of the All Black team in Australia. Great appreciation was also expressed regarding the excellent work being done by Mr. Horton. On the

motion of Mr. R. C. Hughes hearty thanks were accorded Mr. Stainton for his services as secretary.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Mr. Hughes listed significant trees from the opening day that still existed in the park.

1. Pinus Insignis planted by Miss Jane Carrington. 2. Rimu and Puriri, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes Senr.; 3. Specimen pinus insignis above the lily pond; 4. Norfolk Island Pine, Mrs. Thomas Colson; 5. English Yew, Mrs. T. K. Skinner.

TH, AUGUST 14, 1929

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Wednesday evening. Mr. F. Amooore occupied the chair and Messrs. H. Dempsey, G. M. Spence P. E. Stainton F. Parker, W. F. Short, and R. C. Hughes were present. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. J. McLeod and C. E. Bellringer.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the secretary of the Whiteley Church Flower Show committee asking that the board assist the show, which had now been in existence for 15 years, by staging an exhibit. —The board stated that, while it wished the show every success, it regretted that it was unable to accede to the request. Mr. Horton said that there was nothing that they could show at the time year when the show was held. In any case it was considered that if the request was acceded to, the board would be establishing a precedent. This, it was felt, would be undesirable.

The sportsground committee wrote asking that permission be given them to remove the large pinus insignis standing in the north-east corner of the sportsground. This tree kept the sun off people on the terraces and thus interfered with their comfort. The ground round about it became very muddy in wet weather. It was desired to remedy this, but owing to the fact that the roots of the tree were above the ground, no substantial improvement could be effected. —The desired permission was granted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. T. Horton, park superintendent presented his report for the past month as follows: -

"I have to report that since my last report to you, the usual work of maintenance has been gone on with, and although weather conditions have been very bad, we have been able to continue our work without any loss of time. Metalling and reforming paths has been done, and this work is being continued on the main pathway around the large lake. The greater part of the shingle ordered for this work has been delivered, and I expect the balance at an early date. The bridge over the outlet of the lower lake, near the rose-bed, having become unsafe, has been taken down and re-erected and is built on railway rails. The job is strong and this bridge should last for many years.

All the islands in both lakes been thoroughly overhauled and are now free of noxious weeds and superfluous growth. A great deal of pruning and necessary trimming of trees has also been attended to. About one hundred more trees have been planted. We are now giving the boats their overhaul and painting.

The new propagating house has been completed and I have had a potting shed and work room added to this building at my own expense, which will not only be a great convenience, but an acquisition to the park property. Native trees have been donated to the Niger Hill reserve.

The sportsground is in very fair condition, considering the rain we have had and the number of games played on it during the winter. The council staff have made a start with tar-sealing the main entrance drive and about three chains has been completed. I understand the balance of this work will be done as soon as the football season is over.

The council are now carrying out improvements at the Brooklands corner of the park and this work makes it necessary to remove a number of trees we have recently planted and the removal and setting back of the fence for a few chains of its length at this place. The work which the council is about to do in Victoria Street will necessitate about 10 chains of fencing to be set back on the correct boundary, which is about 12 feet back from its present position. I have given the engineer permission to deposit a large quantity of black soil on a spare piece of land near the croquet lawns. This will be very useful at a future date for top-dressing, etc."

Mr. Horton was instructed to re-erect the park fence on Victoria Street in its correct position, i.e., 12 feet back from its present position. He was also empowered to procure the services of a suitable man to lop back the branches of some high trees near the ladies' croquet green.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Amooore reminded the board that some time ago the New Plymouth Borough Council had advanced the board £900 to cover an indebtedness under which it was then labouring, and that the board had promised to repay the amount within five years, the value of any permanent, improvements done in the park to be deducted from the sum to be repaid. He stated that permanent improvements to the extent of £188 had been effected. The secretary was instructed to write to the council requesting that the sum of £188 be deducted from the board's account.

The matter of lighting the fernery was brought forward. Several members said that, if properly done, they thought the work would pay for itself.

Mr. Horton stated that, with the facilities now available, the fernery would this year present the finest show since its inception. With the flowers it was proposed to plant there would be a riot of colour. Messrs. G. M. Spence, F. Amooore, F. Parker and P. E. Stainton were appointed a committee to

investigate the matter and report to the next meeting of the board.

It was decided that the question of the ceremony of handing over the park to the council be deferred until the weather became more settled.

Mr. Stainton suggested that the board, as a body, should visit the park. As individuals they went there frequently, but as a board they should also inspect it. Several members supported the idea and it was decided that the first inspection be made on next Wednesday afternoon at 3 'o'clock, weather conditions permitting. Several accounts were passed for payment.

Votes of thanks were accorded any who, in any way, had assisted the construction of the propagating house.

TH, SEPTEMBER 11, 1929

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

NEED FOR MORE FUNDS

SPECIAL EFFORT WANTED.

The need for some special effort being made to liquidate an amount of £900 odd owing by the Pukekura Park Board was discussed at the monthly meeting at the board on Tuesday night and a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. F. Amooore, F. L. Parker and J. McLeod was set up to consider ways and means of raising the funds by special effort.

There were present at the meeting: Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), W. F. Short, H. Dempsey, F. Parker, C. E. Bellringer, R. C. Hughes, G. M. Spence, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent.)

The secretary stated that while the board was living somewhere near its income, no provision was being made to liquidate past liabilities and he thought that the board should make a special effort in this respect.

It was thought that it would be inadvisable to hold another fireworks display.

Members were agreed that something had to be done towards liquidating the £900 the board owed. This had to be done in four years.

The financial report showed that the board had £80 in hand and, with an instalment of £226 from the Borough Council and an estimated revenue of £250 from the boats and fernery, it should just about make ends meet to March 31.

It was, stated that wages each year amounted to £1250 and other expenses to £200. Against this the board received a borough subsidy of £850, and £175 from the sportsground committee, leaving the balance to be found from the boats and fernery.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Since his last report, the staff had been fully engaged in ordinary maintenance work, reported the superintendent.

There was little of special interest to report. One hundred clumps of agapanthus and other plants had been sent to the Stratford Domain. Most of the shingle on order had been delivered and the work of reforming the main paths was being pushed on as opportunity

offered. He had not been able to erect the new fence on the Brooklands Road boundary as there was some doubt as to the correct line, but he had arranged to have the correct boundary defined and would then erect the fence. The pruning and spring work generally was well advanced and the park was in very fair order and condition. The soil for top-dressing the sportsground was all ready and would be put on when the football season was over.

The question of charging commission to bands, etc., putting on entertainments in the park was raised.

Several members thought that a 15 per cent. commission on takings should be charged.

Mr. Bellringer pointed out that bandsmen were not playing there for their own gain, besides which the receipts for all the concerts in a year would not be more than £100, so that the board's scheme would not amount to much.

Mr. Stainton thought that this proposal might antagonise the bands and the result would not be worth it.

The board finally appointed Messrs. Bellringer, Short and Dempsey to take charge of the gates for the concerts given in aid of the park, it being thought that if this were adequately done, the receipts would probably be larger. It was decided to defer the question of lighting the fernery owing to lack of finance.

It was stated that two men were to be put on cleaning out the two creeks at the top end of the park.

TH, OCTOBER 16, 1929

**CONTROL OF PARK
BOROUGH TO TAKE OVER.
TO-MORROW' CEREMONY.**

A ceremony of a unique character will take place at Pukekura Park to-morrow afternoon, when the control of the park, which has now been vested in the Borough Council, will be officially handed over by the Park Board to the Mayor (Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths). Opportunity will be taken to pay honour to those still living who have been associated with the park since it was first constituted in 1876. There will be an inspection of several trees planted by early settlers and those interested in the development of the park. The invited guests will be entertained to afternoon tea by the members of the board, and an address will be given by Mr. R. C. Hughes, who holds the unique record of having been a member of the board for the whole term since the park was first constituted. The ceremony will be completed by the planting of a kauri tree by the Mayor in the newly developed portion of the park, close to the fernery.

TH, OCTOBER 17, 1929

**THE CEREMONY AT THE PARK.
CONTROL VESTED IN BOROUGH.
BOARD MEMBERS RETAIN
INTEREST.**

After more than 50 years of highly successful work on behalf of New Plymouth's most beautiful possession—Pukekura Park—the Park Board to-day formally handed over the park to the care

and safe keeping of the New Plymouth Borough Council. This move, made necessary by the increased cost of maintenance of the park consequent upon its development, is to all intents and purposes merely handing over the park's liabilities to the community by a body dependent in the past on voluntary subscriptions. Those men who constituted the Park Board when the negotiations with the borough were completed, and who had continued the invaluable work of developing the park, will still retain their active interest in the park as members of the "Pukekura Park Committee."

**HISTORY OF THE PARK
ADDRESS BY PIONEER MEMBER**

At 2.30 p.m. the guests were welcomed by the present chairman of the board (Mr. F. Amoore) and an inspection made of a group of historic trees planted on the occasion of the formal opening of the park on May 29, 1876. One of the trees is an English yew—to-day it is little more than a stump—planted by Mrs. T. K. Skinner. The second is a puriri planted by Mr. R. C. Hughes, and the third a rimu planted by Mrs. M. A. Hughes. Next comes a Norfolk Island pine planted by Mrs. Thomas Colson, and then a pinus insignis planted by Miss Jane Carrington, daughter of Mr. F. A. Carrington, superintendent of the province. Last of all is a pinus radiata, planted by some person unknown, which is said to be the finest specimen of its kind in the North Island. These trees are all situated to the west of Cannon Hill, near the upper end of the lower lake.

After a brief tour of the park the gathering assembled at the tea kiosk for an afternoon tea. An address appropriate to the occasion was then made by Mr. R. C. Hughes, a member of the present board, who holds the remarkable record of fifty-four years' continuous service as a member of the board. He was chiefly responsible for the establishment of the park in 1876.

Mr. W. H. Skinner, who has played a leading part over a number of years in the development of the park, also gave an address, and then Mr. Hughes formally handed over to the Mayor of New Plymouth (Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths) the deeds by which the park, after fifty-four years' existence under board control, is now vested in the borough.

Reference was made by the Mayor to the two puriri trees at the Liardet Street entrance to the sportsground planted by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess on July 21, 1919, to commemorate the declaration of peace, and Mr. Burgess replied. The ceremony was completed by the planting of a kauri tree by the Mayor in the recently developed portion of the park alongside the fernery.

MR. HUGHES' ADDRESS.

"I wish to thank my fellow members of the board for the compliment which they have paid me in asking me to speak on this occasion. It is an occasion of some moment, because it marks the death of the board and the birth of, the new governing body.

"It is now 54 years since the board came into existence, the Ordinance of the Taranaki Provincial Council under

which it was constituted having been passed in June 1875. The part I took in bringing this about has already been published, so I shall say little on that subject. I desire, however, to mention the names of some others who are entitled to thanks. The Provincial Secretary, the late Thomas Kelly, M.L.C., and the late Arthur Standish, who was then Provincial Treasurer, with Mr. F. A. Carrington, the Provincial Superintendent, warmly supported the proposal to dedicate a part of the town for a recreation ground. I desire to mention also the name of Peter Elliot, an old member of the Council, who fathered the question which I tabled asking the Provincial Government to provide land for that purpose. The Government selected the present site. It consisted of 109 quarter-acre sections and three larger allotments, with intervening streets, the whole containing 48 acres 3 roods 6 perches. The Provincial Executive obtained a transfer of these sections and allotments from the Education Board for a piece of land on the Smart Road.

ROUGH LAND SELECTED.

"The site so selected for a park was a rough piece of unfenced ground, broken by numerous gullies and containing not an acre of level land. The whole was covered with fern, furze and tutu. It was no light undertaking to convert this into a park, but the Government gave a small subsidy. The Ordinance as originally drawn vested the land in the Town Board of New Plymouth with a subsidy of £400.

The Board, however, refused to accept the responsibility. Thereupon the Provincial Secretary intimated that he would drop the measure. I, however, opposed this course, and offered to get trustees to take the responsibility. Trustees were secured. They were John Gilmour, Isaac Broad, Harris Ford, James Thomas Davis, Thomas King, Robert J. Collins and myself. It was a strange acknowledgment of the public spirit shown by these gentlemen that the Executive reduced the subsidy to £200. "The Trustees at once entered upon the discharge of their duties and from that time the work of supervision and control and the providing of funds has been carried on by trustees.

"Of the original trustees I am the only one left. Of the members of the Provincial Council, under whose legislation the board was constituted, the only survivors are Mr. John Andrews, formerly of Huirangi, now of Fitzroy, and myself.

**PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
ABOLISHED.**

"My diary shows that the Council was prorogued on June 30, 1875. It never met again, for on October 12 of that year the system of provincial government throughout New Zealand was abolished. The question of abolition had been a burning one for years. Abolition was opposed by Sir George Grey, superintendent of Auckland, Dr. Featherston, superintendent of Wellington, and Mr. MacAndrew, superintendent of Otago. Our own

council also opposed it, but Parliament saw fit to pass the Abolition Bill.

"These facts are worthy of mention because abolition meant a great loss to Taranaki, whose land revenue from that time became colonial revenue. This did not seem fair to Taranaki, seeing that other provinces such as Canterbury and Otago had sold most of their lands and had used the proceeds to develop their respective provinces.

"It was, however, fortunate for this district that the Provincial Council in the session just ended had passed an Ordinance providing for the construction of a harbour at New Plymouth and appropriating for that purpose one fourth of the land revenue.

How deeply indebted is this community to the foresight of that last Council.

EXAMINATION OF LAND.

"Returning to the history of the park, my diary contains under date October 3, 1875, the following entry: 'Having been appointed one of the Board of Trustees for the Recreation Ground, I went with the other members and the deputy superintendent, Mr. Standish, to inspect the scene of our future labour, We found the land, nearly fifty acres, admirably adapted to our purpose.

"The **FORMAL** opening of the grounds is thus described in my diary under date Monday, May 29, 1876: 'The Recreation Board having arranged for the public planting of the first tree on the Queen's birthday, were compelled by the weather to postpone the ceremony till to-day, when it took place with a little eclat. Miss Jane Carrington was the heroine of the occasion. The superintendent made a little speech. Tom King followed with a little speech, the band played, and the profanum vulgus, led off by myself, cheered for all concerned. I, Pross and mother planted trees.'

"The agreement for the transfer of the park was effected only after most careful negotiation. The first proposal of this kind was made about four years ago by a member distinguished by her zeal and energy. While recognising her claims for consideration I felt bound to vote with the majority of the board in opposing it.

HANDING OVER CONTROL.

"About twelve months ago I was taken by surprise when a leading member of the board announced that he thought, that the time had come to hand over the park to the Borough and let ratepayers provide the funds, as we had come to the end of our tether.

Again I opposed. I pointed out that from the beginning we had carried on under financial difficulties, but yet we had carried on. To hand over the grounds to the Borough would be suicidal, just like the act of a man who cut his throat because he was in difficulties. However, negotiations were opened with the Council. It was the object of the board to obtain an assurance that the management of the park would not suffer by the change and that there would be a continuity of design in development. The Council readily agreed to a suggestion that the existing members of the board should continue in control as a committee, the Mayor being added. This

arrangement solved the difficulty. Thus the community now have the assurance that the grounds will be maintained and developed on the lines which in the past have proved so satisfactory. The position then may be expressed in the saying, 'Le Roi est mort; vive le Roi' (The King is dead; long live the King). It also finds expression in the maxim 'Non moritur Rex' (The King never dies), and also by the homelier saying, 'John Brown's body lies mouldering in the grave, but his soul keeps marching on.'

"The board is transferring to the Borough an area of land substantially greater than the 48 acres 3 roods 6 perches with which it was endowed. The board acquired from time to time various sections within its boundaries and some adjoining the grounds, so that the area has been increased to 55 acres 1 rood 8 perches.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT.

"These are the terms of the agreement with the Council: The board undertook to pay off all its liabilities by means of a bank overdraft. Upon due payment of all their liabilities the petition to the Governor-General for the transfer of the park would be presented. His assent would automatically vest the park in the Council, which, in that event, undertook to pay off the board's overdraft provided it did not exceed £900.

"The board undertook to execute a deed of trust to secure that the following trust funds would be applied to the purposes set out opposite the description of such funds respectively, namely: — Newton King Trust, £3000. Income to be applied in the first place to erection of tea-rooms in the park, in the second place to maintenance and upkeep of fernery, and thirdly general maintenance and improvement of park. C. H. Burgess (£300, plus interest £120, £420); Josiah Attrill Trust, £100; Annie Hulke Trust, £100; Mary Ellen Freeth Trust, £50; all for permanent improvements.

"Thus the Council will take over an area of land substantially greater than that with which the board was endowed and will have the income derivable from the foregoing trust funds.

"It will have been noted that I opposed the transfer of the park to the Borough. It is well therefore that I should give reasons. Councilors are not selected because of their knowledge of horticulture or arboriculture or the management of parks and playgrounds, but by reason of their fitness to discharge the very important duties imposed upon them by the Municipal Corporations Act. Moreover the personnel of a council is always changing. Thus, the reserves committee of a newly elected council might have very different views as to the management of a park from those held by their predecessors. Hence there would be a want of continuity of design in management.

A TRAMWAYS SUGGESTION.

To illustrate the necessity for eternal vigilance one might mention a proposal made to our board by the council about three years ago, when the extension of the tram to Vogelstown was being urged. The Borough Council actually asked the board to permit a tram line to be opened

up and carried through the park. The line was to enter from Gilbert Street, to cut through the plantation of native trees, pass between the lower lake and the lovely fern dell waterfall, cross the brook, and strike into the steep hill side near the caretaker's cottage, thence along the hillside to Vogelstown. This would have involved the cutting down of many valued trees and plants, including pines of 50 years' growth, and not only those in the direct route, but also all overhanging trees that might threaten the safety of the line. What a scene of desolation. On the one side high steep clay banks, on the other the slopes covered with spoil from the cuttings. You need not be told how I voted in this case. Fortunately I was not the only opponent, and the scheme was vetoed. This is why I am so pleased that the management of the park will be in the hands of a committee composed of the outset of members of the old board. Later on a proposal to construct a thoroughfare through the park was made, but not by the council this time. This was a car route from the Liardet Street entrance to the Racecourse, to enable visitors to inspect both reserves without the trouble of alighting. Again, I was in opposition, objecting to the felling of trees which would be involved, and believing that it was more important to preserve the rights of our own citizens and their children to the peaceful and safe enjoyment of the park than to make things easy for tourists who were merely 'doing the sights.'

DESTRUCTION OF TREES.

"It seems to me that the capacity of a local body to manage an ornamental reserve is questionable when one considers the experience of a certain locality. Before proceeding further I ask members of Borough Council to bear with me in my criticism and to accept my assurance that I am not here to find fault, but am merely animated by a love of trees and a desire for their preservation where possible and to encourage people to regard trees as friends and companions. One of the beauty spots of our town was the Henui Cemetery sheltered with its fine trees and bounded by the beautiful Henui River. Visitors from outside were loud in its praise. However, the reformer has been at work and tree after tree has been felled, and this to such an extent that the pines which encircled it and gave it, an air of privacy and repose have mostly disappeared, revealing acres of white tombstones. Doubtless some of the large pines in the central part of the grounds might well have been removed, but to my mind some of the finest specimens should have been spared, so that here and there they would have broken the sky-line just like the stately oaks and elms which adorn an English churchyard. A notable feature of the cemetery was a double row of fine old Norfolk pines, sixty years old, which formed an avenue leading from the entrance to the mortuary chapel—an avenue not to be equalled in any other cemetery in New Zealand. Every tree in this noble avenue has been cut down. Beneath the shelter of one of the pines lies the body of William Morgan

Crompton (my old schoolmaster), one of the Commissioners who laid out the cemetery and had these trees planted.

TREES AND THE AXE.

"Oh! for a poet like Newbolt, gifted with imagination to visualise the scene and give expression to the indignation of the old Commissioner upon hearing the thud of the axe, just, as in "Drake's Drum," Newbolt visualised Drake, in his hammock "slung atween the round shot in Nombre Dios Bay," roused at the thought of another Armada, exclaiming: "If the Dons sight Devon I'll quit the port of Heaven, and drum them up the Channel as we drummed them long ago." It is interesting to note that while Drake never ceased to think of Plymouth Hoe, Crompton, in planting these trees, did so for the sake of New Plymouth at the

Antipodes. "It was some comfort to me a few months ago to observe still standing an old and very large macrocarpa on the slope behind the mortuary chapel, a tree of immense size which afforded shelter from wind and rain; but, alas! on a recent visit I found that it had fallen a victim to the woodman's axe—a boon, perhaps, to someone in search of cheap firewood. Even on the occasion of a later visit I noticed that the work of destruction was still going on. A large sycamore about two feet in diameter lay on the ground near the entrance gate, and beside it a large well grown oak—more cheap firewood, I suppose. "It is a relief to pass from these criticisms and give a few words of praise.

SOME EARLY WORKERS.

"When one considers what has been achieved in converting this rough locality into a park, the unique beauties of which have gained distinction for New Plymouth, one feels bound to hold in grateful remembrance those who have laboured to produce this result. It is, however, impossible in this brief memoir to do justice to all, but at the risk of being invidious I venture mention a few whose names occur to me. Our first secretary, who did good pioneering work, was Robert J. Collins, afterwards known to fame as Colonel Collins and Auditor-General. Our next secretary was Mr. Reginald Bailey. He drew a large plan showing how the grounds should be laid out. Often was his tall athletic figure to be seen after office hours engaged like a navvy in excavating the foundations of the massive dam which controls the waters of the upper lake. Mr. Harold Tribe was a later secretary. He presented the board with the concrete platform and steps near the band rotunda which give access to the lake.

"Mr. T. K. Skinner was a surveyor from whose thoughts the park was rarely absent. He marked out the levels of our principal walks. He used to spend day after day in the grounds working gratuitously with his chainman. James Thomas Davies was another enthusiast. He gave nearly all the money required for the construction of the "Poets' Bridge." Mr. Clement Govett was an ardent supporter. He was chairman for years. When a man about to make his will was unable to decide how to dispose of a particular sum Mr. Govett would

give direction to his thoughts—sometimes to the benefit of the park. Mr. Thomas Colson, a neighbouring resident—a lover of trees and plants—spent much time in the grounds working and overlooking the caretaker.

"Mr. Percy Smith was another enthusiast. Among his activities he supervised the work of extending the upper lake as far as Brooklands, employing for this purpose a gang of Maoris. It was at his instance the place was named "Pukekura Park" instead of "Rec," which it was generally called. Mr. Richard Cock has been of great service, both as a member of the board and its chairman. Although not now a member he still retains much interest in the park. Mr. C. H. Burgess was for some years chairman and was of great service. Being Mayor during part of this period he very generously refused to make use of his honorarium as Mayor, but devoted it to the purposes of the board. This explains the presence of the substantial sum of £420 among our trust funds. Mr. W. W. Smith was superintendent for a long time. He encouraged the planting of native trees and ferns, of which he introduced many new specimens. He exercised a wide influence on students of botany and natural history. His attainments in these sciences caused him to be much sought after. Mr. F. P. Corkill was for many years a member of the board and its chairman for some time. In the latter capacity his energy was productive of good results. "To the ladies of New Plymouth the board owes much for their services in raising funds. One of the earliest was Mrs. Humphries, the widow of Dr. Larwill Humphries. Many a fair and entertainment she carried out, assisted by her five daughters and other ladies. Mrs. Richard Cock and Mrs. Harris Ford also did good service in this direction. In more recent years Mrs. Burgess has played a distinguished part in raising funds and in ornamenting the Park.

PARK'S CARETAKERS.

"The excellent condition of the park owes much to the care and energy of Mr. Horton, the present superintendent, assisted by a good staff of workmen, a staff more numerous than was available for his predecessors.

"In recent years I have played but a secondary part. Although to be found at the meetings I have been content to give place to the younger and more energetic members of the board, namely to Messrs. C. Burgess, H. Dempsey, F. Amooore, P. Stainton, C. E. Bellringer, W. C. Weston, J. M'Leod, and W. F. Short, all of whom have shown much energy and resourcefulness. For the design of the fernery of which we are so proud we have to thank Mrs. Lovell, of Hawera. In the carrying out of the design the board is greatly indebted to Mr. Horton, Mr. Victor Davies, and Mr. Besley. The board is very fortunate in its secretary, Mr. Stainton. For thoroughness and efficiency he has had no equal.

"Of the board's employees during all these years, one holds a kindly place in my memory. Darby Claffey—a short,

thick-set, Irish peasant. For many years Darby was our only workman. Though poorly paid he carried on cheerfully. Want of learning did not detract from his capacity to work—many a chain of ditch he dug; many a sod bank he built. When spoil and debris increased beyond the capacity of his wheelbarrow the board provided him with a little cart, and for the cart a little donkey. With these Darby was as happy as if he were back once more in old Ireland. Darby and his donkey were famous features of the grounds for many years. His Irish humour always was a pleasant characteristic. An odd instance occurs to me. On one occasion he was asked by a visitor if we possessed a specimen of a certain plant, of which the visitor gave its botanical name. Darby, innocent of botany said: 'Yes, come and I'll show you.' When they reached the spot the plant shown was a fine specimen of gorse in full bloom.

ANOTHER BEAUTY SPOT.

"Before concluding I would like to draw attention to the opportunity of preserving for the town one of its finest landscapes—the view of the Huatoki Valley with snow-clad Egmont beyond. The owners of the land adjoining the Carrington Road, who have been offering it for sale, have now withdrawn the land from sale, intending ultimately to build on it. The erection of buildings would block this noble view. From my negotiations with their land agent I am inclined to believe that for the sake of the town the owners might be induced to sell the part near the Vivian Street bridge. The acquisition of this would largely preserve the view. It is possible that the owners would be content with a small deposit and leave the balance at interest. "In conclusion, let me say that the holding of this ceremony to-day will be justified if it shall have roused in our citizens a determination, to continue the work of beautifying our town and make it deserving of its name, 'The Garden of Taranaki,' as Taranaki is known as 'The Garden of New Zealand.'"

SUNDRY JOTTINGS POINTS OF INTEREST.

The first trees were planted on May 29, 1876, by Miss Jane Carrington, daughter of Mr. F. A. Carrington, member for the district in the House of Representatives and, superintendent of the province, who laid out the town of New Plymouth in 1841. She planted an oak representing Great Britain, a puriri for New Zealand, a Norfolk pine for the South Pacific Island, and a pinus insignis for America. The largest attendance of people at the sports ground was over 12,000 on the occasion of the Rugby football match between Taranaki and the Springboks on July 16, 1921.

A start has been made with a scheme of labelling trees and shrubs with their botanical and popular names. The formation of the upper lake was undertaken in 1878.

The ducks on the lake are descendants of six dozen teal and hybrid ducks bequeathed to Mr. W. W. Smith by the late Mr. Taylor White, of Weber, Hawke's Bay. Mr. Smith, who was their curator, presented the ducks to the park

15 years ago. Custodians of the park in their order of service are as follow: - Messrs. C. Carnell, Breidecker, D. Claffey, C. Edgecombe, R. Mace, W. W. Smith and T. H. Horton.

"Pukekura" means "Hill of the Red Parrot." It was a tapued bird reserve of the Maori in pre-European days. The first fish hatchery, at the head of the lily pond, was built nine years ago and was succeeded about five years ago by the present building.

The whale jawbones surmounting the tablet dedicated to deceased benefactors were placed there about 34 years ago. The whale, which was washed up on the beach, was exhibited in the park, but the remains were destroyed upon becoming in a poor state of preservation!

The pair of swans on the upper lake were brought from the river Avon, Christchurch, about nine years ago.

The position of secretary to the board has always been honorary. The following, in order of service, have taken office: Messrs. R. J. Collins, R. Bayley, H. Ford, F. P. Corkill, E. H. Tribe (twice), C. H. Drew, and P. C. Stainton.

Electric lights were placed at convenient points nine years ago.

The shed at the lower end of the upper lake was used by swimmers until about five years ago, when it was taken over for use by the superintendent.

There are eight ways by which legitimate entrance is gained to the park—from Liardet Street, Gilbert Street, Carrington Road (three gates), Brooklands Road, Racecourse and John Street.

The area of the park is approximately 58 acres. The original area was 48 acres 2 roods 9 perches, but sections of an aggregate of about 10 acres have been added. Chairmen of the board include Messrs. Thomas King, J. T. Davis, R. C. Hughes, F. P. Corkill, Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, C. W. Govett, H. Ford, C. E. Bellringer, H. Dempsey and F. Amooore.

The monumental fountain, commemorative of the jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign, was erected in 1897, the year of the jubilee.

The tablet dedicated to the memory of deceased benefactors contains the following names: J. T. Davis, Martha King, Peter Madsen, Clement William Govett, Isabella Small, R. H. Govett, Helen Romaine Broham and Ann Hulke.

The band rotunda was erected about 30 years ago, the smaller bridge on the upper lake about 25 years, and the accommodation pavilion at the sports ground about six years ago.

A BOTANICAL SURVEY TREES' RAPID GROWTH.

The park offers a very extensive field for the naturalist, and many fine and rare native trees are growing therein. Kauris grow rapidly. One fine specimen is 33 feet in height, with a trunk six inches in diameter at a distance of four feet from the ground.

The tree is 21 years old. Several good specimens of tanekaha are showing vigorous growth. There is the "celery topped pine" of Hooker. The three

species of totara are growing rapidly, and there are groups of fine specimens ranging from five to 39 years old. Ages of the rimu trees, of which there are several varieties, range from 17 to 34 years. Miro, planted from 14 to 25 years ago are growing robustly and are graceful young forest trees. A charm of the park is the puriri trees, of rapid growth. The most magnificent specimens growing south of Kawhia are in Mr. Newton King's garden, adjoining the park.

The pinus insignis trees show the best and straightest growth in New Zealand. There are some splendid specimens of pinus torreyana, which yields good timber for furniture and general work. The tree is a native of Puget Sound (Washington). American redwood pines, which produce valuable timber, are showing good growth.

The six species of tree ferns are most admired by visitors from overseas. Taranaki is the home of the magnificent mamaku, the "King of Tree Ferns." There are seven species of native orchids, which are of great interest in the flowering season.

The large island at the head of the upper lake was planted with 27 species of native plants 27 years ago. With two exceptions they succeeded well, and are a good illustration of the comparative growth of native trees under favourable conditions.

There are 44 species of native ferns and 28 native mosses in the park. Some of both orders are of beautiful and rare forms.

The park also contains a fine series of specimens of kaimomako, kaikawaka, kaiwhiria, kakarama, kakahua, karaka, karo, kumarahou, kowhai, kohekohe. Agerautangi, hohoeka, horopito, maire, mairehau, monoau, and mauku grow luxuriantly. Paratawhiti (horseshoe fern), patete, puahou, putaputaweta and puwhaureroa (the bird catching tree) are well represented. Five species of rata, two timber trees and three climbers, flourish.

In the very beautiful fernery, recently built, the Park Board has been assembling a complete collection of the many ferns for which the New Zealand flora is noted. It is hoped that this fernery will finally be the most complete in New Zealand.

TH, OCTOBER 18, 1929 CEREMONIAL TRANSFER HANDING OVER PUKEKURA PARK BOROUGH COUNCIL TAKE CONTROL - PARK BOARD DELIVERS TITLE DEEDS

It was as though Nature approved the decision of the Pukekura Park Board to hand over the title deeds of the park, and with them the control of the grounds, to the Borough Council when, on Thursday afternoon amidst bright sunshine, and in the balmy air of an ideal spring day—a perfect day for such an occasion—the ceremony of handing over the control of the park by the one body to the other took place in the presence of a very representative assemblage of citizens, especially of those still living who had

been associated with the establishment of the park and the descendants of others who had taken a prominent part in its development, and those of a later generation who had played a part in developing what had been so well begun.

The occasion was in every respect a notable one, and marked, in a way which nothing else could do, the recognition that the park is the heritage of the people of this district for all time, and that as it is theirs to enjoy so is it theirs to maintain and improve. While the ceremony marked the end of the work of the Park Board as such, and the vesting of the grounds in the Borough Council, who will hereafter be charged with the responsibility of providing the wherewithal to maintain and develop the grounds, it did not mean that those who have done so much in this direction in the past will cease from their good works, for the management of the park is to remain in the hands of the members of the board as a committee under the council, and they will continue the work which has been planned. Neither did it mean that in the future there will be no call upon the public for funds for the maintenance of the park. There will always be scope for the expenditure of any money given to the park, and such gifts and contributions will always be welcomed, and as stated at the gathering on Thursday, any gifts of money made to the park will be utilised in effecting permanent improvements. In time, however, the maintenance of the park will become a charge upon the general body of ratepayers, and it is in this connection that the authority of the Borough Council will be exercised.

It scarcely required the assurance of the Mayor to satisfy the past members of the board, or the citizens in general, that nothing would be done by the council to jeopardise the future of the park because of the change in the controlling body.

The proceedings of Thursday afternoon were not only of a ceremonial character, but they were of a very enjoyable nature. Everyone appreciated the walk through the grounds, and the talks given by the curator (Mr. T. Horton) on the trees planted by the early settlers, and also the pleasant gathering at afternoon tea, and especially the very interesting resumé of the history of the park given by Mr. R. C. Hughes, who has been an active member of the board ever since the park was constituted over 54 years ago. The occasion will long be remembered by those privileged to participate in it, and no one fears that the park will suffer anything from the formal change in the controlling authority.

CHAIRMAN WELCOMES VISTORS

Gathered around the first tree planted in the park, the chairman of the board (Mr. F. Amooore) extended a cordial welcome to the visitors, and outlined the programme which had been arranged. Mr. Amooore said it was his privilege and pleasure as chairman of the board to extend to all a welcome to beautiful Pukekura Park. As they knew the function had been arranged for a two-fold purpose, to formally hand over the park to the borough and to do honour to

those men and women—the early pioneers—who had the foresight to secure the land and carry on the work which had transformed it into the beautiful park it was to-day. The park, he said, was vested in trustees in 1875, and was then a piece of waste land—nothing more than a raupo swamp—but it was taken in hand by those pioneers and trees were planted, thus starting the work of beautification. Some time later—about ten years—work was started on the sports ground, which was also a raupo swamp in those days. This was drained and the work of laying out—the ground—proceeded with. To-day it was one of the finest sportsgrounds in the Domain.

With regard to the board, the citizens had been very fortunate in obtaining the services of men who had so willingly given of their time and money to the upkeep of the park. Lack of money had always been a source of trouble to the board, until to-day the burden had become so heavy it found it could not carry on without assistance from elsewhere. The board therefore looked around to see what was the best thing to do, and thought of the borough. It was felt that the borough was the proper authority to hold the deeds of the park, which should be a charge on the rates. Very soon he hoped it would be an entire charge on the rates instead of a partial responsibility as to-day. At the same time he wished to acknowledge the way in which the people had assisted in the past, but in the interests of the park, he felt that the whole of the finance necessary for its upkeep should be assured.

FIRST TREES PLANTED.

Escorted by Mr. Thos. Horton (superintendent), those present walked around the lower lake, inspecting enroute the pinus insignis tree planted by Miss Jane Carrington, daughter of Mr. F. A. Carrington, superintendent of the province, a pinus radiata, the rimu planted by Mrs. M. A. Hughes, puriri planted by Mr. Robert Hughes, yew tree planted by Mrs. T. K. Skinner, and Norfolk Island pine planted by Mrs. T. Colson, all on May 29, 1875.

MAYOR PLANTS A KAURI.

The party then proceeded to the gully in the vicinity of the fernery and leading to the racecourse, which has during the past few years been transformed into one of the most picturesque corners of the park. Here the Mayor (Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths) planted a kauri, after which Mr. Horton escorted the visitors through the fernery, explaining the work that had been done here and what it was proposed to do in future.

An adjournment was then made to the tea kiosk, where the guests were entertained to a delightful afternoon tea served by Mrs. Ainsworth. Later Mr. Amooore announced apologies from Mesdames F. E. Wilson, Newton King and Deacon, Messrs. S. G. Smith, MP., T. C. List, R. Cock, W. C. Weston, V. C. Davies, Devenish, Deacon, and Dr. Brewster.

"FATHER OF PARK."

Mr. R. C. Hughes, described by Mr. Amooore as the "Father of the Park," then addressed those present, his speech,

which was listened to with great interest, being published on Wednesday. Mr. Hughes made special reference to the work of the late Mr. T. K. Skinner who had laid out the park, spending day after day with his chain-man working gratuitously in that direction. At the call of Mr. P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary of the Board), cheers were given for Mr. Hughes.

AN ENTERPRISE OF HOPE AND ENERGY.

Mr. W. H. Skinner acknowledged the compliment which had been extended to him in asking him to say a few words, and presumed it was due to the work of his family in connection with the grounds, and particularly that of his brother (the late Mr. T. K. Skinner) who was largely instrumental in the laying out of the grounds as they saw them to-day. So far as he personally was concerned, his work had been in starting the sportsground, though not as they saw it now. It was started without capital, but with hope and energy, and that work had been followed by others until they saw it to-day as Mr. Amooore had said, one of the finest sportsgrounds in New Zealand. In the pioneer days the valley which formed the park was all wooded, and only a remnant of the permanent forest remained at the far end of the upper lake. It would be interesting to many of them, perhaps, to know that out of this valley came the timber with which many of the early houses in New Plymouth were built. The main timbers of St. Mary's Church were obtained here.

RING OF REDOUBTS.

Continuing, Mr. Skinner said that during the Maori war period the park was considered to be one of the most dangerous approaches for an assault by the Natives on the town, and therefore a ring of redoubts and sentries were provided with the object of preventing such an attack. He thanked Mr. Hughes for his kindly references to his brother and himself, and congratulated the board which had worked so arduously in the interests of the Park.

Like Mr. Hughes, he had his doubts as to whether it was a wise step to hand the park over to the borough. From his experience in different parts of the Dominion, it had not always been a success where local bodies had had control, and New Plymouth was not so fortunate as the cities of Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch, for instance, where they were able to devote very large sums of money for the upkeep and beautification of their parks without it falling heavily on the ratepayers. This was an experiment so far as New Plymouth was concerned, and he hoped he would live long enough to see it a success. There was an element of danger, but on the other hand the cost of upkeep was mounting up every year, and the development of the grounds must go on, and the ratepayers as a whole should pay for it rather than the board having to rely on the generosity of the same few people all the time.

DEEDS HANDED OVER.

Mr. Hughes then handed to the Mayor the deeds of the park, remarking that the area of the ground originally was 48

acres 3 roods 6 perches. Purchases made from time to time, however, had increased the total to-day to 55 acres 1 rood and 8 perches. In addition to this the board handed over its trust funds, viz., the sum of £3000, which was given by the late Mr. Newton King, £300 plus £120 interest from Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess, £100 from the late Mr. J. Attrill, £100 from the late Mrs. Hulke, and £50 from the late Mrs. Freeth. He handed the deeds and trust moneys over in every confidence that the Borough Council would guard and treasure it for the town, and that they would regard it as a sacred trust and never part with an inch of it.

RESPONSIBILITY RECOGNISED.

The Mayor, in receiving the deeds, said this was a memorable day. In accepting the deeds of Pukekura Park from Mr. Hughes, he did so with a full recognition of the responsibility that passed with them to the Borough Council as representatives of the citizens of New Plymouth. He assured Mr. Hughes and those associated with him on the board at the present time, that the council was mindful of that responsibility, and that it would be the duty of this and subsequent councils to cherish this beautiful Jewel that they had set in their midst—one of the most priceless jewels in Taranaki.

It would be their duty and privilege to develop the park for the people of New Plymouth, of Taranaki, and New Zealand, and far beyond New Zealand. He was sure the fears expressed by Mr. Hughes that the council would need watching were quite groundless. The council dare not do anything in connection with this park that would jeopardise its beauty. The present council, he was sure, would not, and future councils dare not because there would be such an outburst of public sentiment against them. It was Mrs. Burgess who first suggested, when she was a member of the board some ten years ago, that the park be handed over to the borough. The council would not only endeavour to maintain it in its present state, but as the people's representatives, see that an adequate amount was provided year by year to ensure the park being still further improved. In this connection they were delighted to have the assurance of the present members of the board that they were prepared to remain on the board so that nominally the council would simply be the guardian of the park to provide the necessary funds whereby the board could continue its work. The council would do everything possible in this direction. He trusted that Mr. Hughes would live many years to watch the progress of the park and see it growing in beauty.

Fifty-four years had elapsed since the first tree was planted in the park by Miss Carrington. That tree as they had seen, had flourished, and he expressed the hope that the kauri he had planted that afternoon would be flourishing 54 years hence, and be a monument to mark the occasion of the transfer of the park to the council. His Worship referred to the trees planted at the entrance of the park by Mr. and Mrs. Burgess to commemorate Peace Day, and trusted that these too, would be protected and

cared for by the people of Nev Plymouth for all time.

PIONEERS' VISION.

Mr. C. H. Burgess congratulated Mr. Hughes on his most interesting address, and also said how he had been impressed with the wonderful memory Mr. Hughes had. Mr. Hughes and those associated with him from the beginning had wonderful vision of what this town was going to be, and of what they could make of this place. Looking back 54 years one could not help but realise too that those concerned must have had stout hearts to have tackled the work involved. Men like Reggie Bayley and others were not afraid to take their coats off and do a hard day's work for the public. Mr. Hughes had given yeoman service for the last 54 years, and the speaker expressed the hope that he would live many years longer to look after the Borough Council. At the same time he was satisfied that no council now or in the future would destroy the features of the park. Personally he thought it was the duty of the Borough Council to take over not only this asset but other parks. New Plymouth would be a big city before many years had gone by, and it would be impossible for the different committees to carry on extensions that would be necessary. There was no reason why the Borough Council should take over the actual working of the parks, but they should take some responsibility for financing them. In fact, if New Plymouth was to be made the watering place they all expected it to be, the council would have to take greater responsibilities still. The Mayor said he wished to place on record their appreciation of the magnificent service rendered by members of the board during the past 54 years. The town owed them a great debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they had made individually and collectively during that long period.

DONATION OF £100

Mr. Amooore announced that an anonymous donor, to commemorate the occasion, had given a cheque for £100, the stipulation being that it be used for permanent improvements in the park. This, Mr. Amooore added, was the policy of the board. It was its intention to utilise every donation for providing some permanent improvement so that it could be handed down for posterity. The proceedings terminated with the gathering again honouring Mr. Hughes by singing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

BOARD MEMBERS 1876.

Messrs. R. C. Hughes, J. Gilmour, Harris Ford, J. T. Davis, Thos. King, R. J. Collins, T. Colson.

BOARD MEMBERS 1929.

Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, H. Dempsey, H. V. S. Griffiths, R. C. Hughes, Jas M'Leod, F. Parker, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary), R. W. Tate, W. C. Weston, Thos Horton, F.R.H.S (superintendent).

PAST MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. Clement Govett, J. Davidson, F. P. Corkill, W. L.

Newman, Harris Ford, Percy Smith, W. A. Collis, T. K. Skinner, C. Carter, M. Fraser, C. H. Burgess, R. Cock, D. Hutchen, E. Dockrill, F. T. Bellringer, A. E. Watkins, G. Tisch, W. Ambury, H. Stocker, G. W. Browne, F. Jackson, F. E. Wilson, E. H. Tribe, J. Hayden, A. S. Brooker and A. T. Moore.

TH, OCTOBER 23, 1929 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S VISIT

AT THE PARK AN OCCASION FOR THE CHILDREN. LOVING FAREWELL BY LARGE GATHERING.

The scene at Pukekura Park, where the proceedings were primarily in the interests of the children of the primary and secondary schools, was a gay and delightful one. Children from all the town and several of the country schools were assembled on the sports ground, facing the south terrace, which was filled with citizens. There were also present members of His Majesty's Maori War Veterans, representatives of the South African War Veterans, and ex-service men of the Great War. In addition there were Girl Guides and Brownies, Girl Citizens, War Nurses, Scouts and Cubs. Their Excellencies were given a great welcome as they drove into the grounds and as they walked to the seats arranged for the official party on the lower of the southern terraces.

After the singing of the National Anthem, which was led by Mr. G. A. Lyall, headmaster of the Fitzroy school, the Mayor (Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths) said they were delighted to have with them again Sir Charles and Lady Alice Fergusson, who were about to leave this fair Dominion for the Home Land. Their only regret was that they were leaving the Dominion. Sir Charles and Lady Alice Fergusson felt they could not leave without attending to say good-bye to the people of this district.

TH, NOVEMBER 26, 1929

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING PRESENTATION TO MR. HUGHES.

The Pukekura Park Board met on Monday evening, the chairman, Mr. F. Amooore, presiding. Others present were: The Mayor (Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths), Messrs. P. E. Stainton (secretary), R. W. Tate, S.M., F. Parker, C. E. Bellringer, R. C. Hughes, G. M. Spence, Jas. McLeod, W. F. Short and T. H. Horton (superintendent).

The chairman took an early opportunity of presenting Mr. R. C. Hughes, as a member of the board since its foundation in 1876, with a bound presentation copy of the park's history, signed by members of the board. He expressed their good wishes towards Mr. Hughes and their hopes for his continued good health.

Mr. Hughes, in thanking the members for the gift, referred to his work as a labour of love, started in 1875. He described in reminiscent vein the beginnings of the park and the sole recreation ground previously existing at Poverty Flat, which was the regimental parade ground, of the early days. He and others in course of time determined to

improve matters, and since the foundation of the park and the board in 1876 the park had grown slowly to its present rank.

A letter was received from the No. 2 troop of Boy Scouts concerning their tenancy of the cottage and shed in Victoria Road. They are to be advised that it will continue as in the past and not be affected by the recent alteration of control.

It was decided to reply to a letter from the Park Superintendents' Association informing them it would be inconvenient for the superintendent (Mr. Horton) to attend the next conference in Auckland, but issuing an invitation to the association to hold a future conference in New Plymouth.

Mr. W. C. Weston wrote asking the board to accept his resignation on account of increasing business. He assured the board of his willingness to assist them in any way possible. On the motion of Mr. McLeod it was decided to receive Mr. Weston's resignation with regret.

The chairman extended a welcome to Mr. R. W. Tate, S.M., who has been appointed a member of the board. Mr. Amooore said he was certain Mr. Tate would be a good and efficient member. He had already shown an active interest in the park, which was recognised as second to none in the Dominion. He accordingly extended Mr. Tate a welcome on behalf of the board.

The financial statement for the winter period, April 1 to November 23, showed receipts amounting to £1433 15s 6d, and a credit balance of £371 6s 9d. The receipts included the borough subsidy of £850 for the year. Wages amounting to £907 8s 3d was the largest item in the expenditure account. Donations amounting to £112 19s had been received and receipts from the fernery had reached £142 14s.

The report of the superintendent (Mr. Horton) stated that the usual maintenance work had been carried out by the staff. A good deal of extra work had been occasioned by the storm of October 24. A very old macrocarpa on the hill at the back of the sportsground had been uprooted by the storm. Portion of the Poet's Bridge planking had been renewed, while the remainder of the structure would soon require overhaul. A small new bridge had been erected over the stream near the old nursery area. The results of the work in the gardens pointed to a bright and attractive show of colour for the holidays.

The tea kiosk had again been broken into and damage done to the windows, which had to be repaired. A satisfactory arrangement had been made with the Borough Council for re-fencing the park on the Victoria Street and Brooklands Road frontages. The sportsground was in very good order, the grass having responded very well to the top-dressing. The fernery was also coming on well and promised to be its best in a short time. The eight cricket practice and competition wickets in the sportsground were in good order.

1930

A donation of £300 was made by W.D. Graham to help install lighting at the sportsground in the park. The Grahams were the proprietors of the Criterion Hotel from 1920 until 1937. Mrs Graham often donated plants to the park and when the couple died in the early 1950s, they left a large bequest to the park.

After years of deliberation the superintendent finally got a house built. The location chosen was on Victoria Road (now 25 Victoria Road) between the old curator's cottage and the Park Tennis Club. The main reason for building the cottage was to hopefully deter vandals and with this in mind several pine trees were cut down giving a view into the park from the house. This was very controversial; many people were not happy at being able to see the house from down in the park so a group of native trees were planted on the slope below the house that would eventually hide it. The drawings for the house came from the Borough Engineer, and the house was built by Mr. L. F. Hand at a cost of £1080. The old curator's cottage was pulled down.

A new lighting system was installed around the sportsground.

Plant Donations Included:

Mr. M'Kinnon, of Gisborne, a collection of narcissi bulbs, valued at about £80; Messrs. R. Davies, ferns; R. W. Tate, narcissi; B. H. Just (assorted bulbs).



Britain beat Taranaki. *Taranaki Herald*, May 24, 1930



Taranaki forwards fail to “get their man” before he kicks clear.



B. H. Black, Britain, scoring 3 of his 11 points. He also converted four of the five tries scored



Forwards on the ball. One of the British half-backs fails to stop a Taranaki rush.



British launches another attack after being temporarily repulsed by the opposing vanguard



Well collared: J. S. R. Reeve, the speedy British winger, caught in possession

Scenes from British Rugby Team v Taranaki. *Auckland Weekly News*, May 28, 1930

WAIKATO TIMES
JANUARY 7, 1930
IMPRESSIVE BEGONIA

A double yellow begonia, eight inches across is to be seen in the pukekura park fernery at New Plymouth. The park superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) says it is the finest he has ever grown.

NZ HERALD, JANUARY 7, 1930
DONATION FOR SPORTS GROUND LIGHTING

A generous donation to the funds of the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic Club has been made by Mr. W. D. Graham. The club conducted a "popular man" competition to raise funds for a scheme of flood lighting the Pukekura park sports ground to enable night meetings to be held. Just before polling closed Mr. Graham gave an order for 24,000 three penny votes, representing £300. The total sum raised, £463, will enable modern lighting arrangements to be made and evening meetings of all descriptions will be possible on the sports ground.

TH, JANUARY 15, 1930
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Tuesday evening.

Those present were Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), the Mayor (Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths), Messrs. P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary), W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, J. McLeod, R. C. Hughes, C. E. Bellringer, and the superintendent, Mr. T. H. Horton. An apology for absence was secured from Mr. H. Dempsey.

Authority was given to the North Taranaki Radio Society, directors of Station 2YB, to erect a short telephone line at the park to the press stand for the possible broadcasting of events in the sportsground.

Certified details of expenditure to the extent of £100 11s for work on the recreation ground were received from the sportsground committee. The secretary was authorised to forward the details to the Borough Council.

Accounts totalling £21 1s were passed for payment.

The superintendent reported that although the staff had been kept busy at the park there was little of note in work. Wet weather and periodical gales had brought down so much rubbish that it had been very difficult to keep the park in its usual good condition. The flower beds were coming on well, the water-lilies were flowering freely, and the new blue variety from Western Australia had also started to bloom. The fencing on Victoria Street and Brooklands Road had been completed. The council had put in a sump at the corner of Brooklands Road to catch the silt, but too late to prevent quite a lot of silt being carried into the streams and lakes of the park.

The sportsground area was in better condition than ever, and the cricket pitches were in good order. The roadway in this area badly required attention.

The chairman raised the question of the usual Christmas bonus to the staff, which

had been overlooked this year. He proposed that the same payment—£1 each to the ordinary members and £3, to Mr. Horton—should be paid as a special bonus for holiday services. This was authorised.

Questions of finance were discussed, first in open board and later in committee. The chairman remarked that with a limited fixed revenue for the remaining two and a half months of the financial year the board would have to be careful. They could expect to receive £150 or so from the fernery, if its receipts were maintained, and there was £287 unspent. From this £100 was required for the Borough Council, and a large proportion, £50 a fortnight, for wages. Receipts for the year stood at £1531 6s 6d, and expenditure at £1243 12s 8d, leaving £287 balance, with no further subsidies until after March 31. The chairman remarked that if the fernery receipts held the board would be able to discharge its more immediate debt of £100 to the Borough Council.

The question of park finances was further considered in committee.

TH, JANUARY 15, 1930
SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE

As one indirect means of checking vandalism in Pukekura Park the Park Board are desirous of building the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) a house in the park grounds. The question was again discussed at a meeting of the board on Tuesday evening. The chairman (Mr. F. Amooore), Mr. J. McLeod and Mr. G. M. Spence were finally appointed to go into the question of financing the proposal and report to a further meeting.

TH, JANUARY 15, 1930
FERNERY POPULAR

The popularity of the Pukekura Park fernery was effectively demonstrated at Tuesday night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board, when the superintendent (Mr. T. H. Horton) reported that 600 more people had visited the fernery from December 20 to January 11 than for the corresponding period in 1928-29. This fact was very favourably commented upon by members. It was mentioned that at present the very fine begonias in the fernery are at their best, and were alone worth seeing.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1930
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING
SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE

The monthly committee meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening when there were present: Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), H. Dempsey, R. W. Tate, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, P. E. Stainton, F. Parker, T. H. Horton (superintendent). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. H. V. S. Griffiths, J. McLeod, and C. E. Bellringer.

The park superintendent, Mr. Horton, reported that, during the past month the staff had been engaged in general maintenance work. Several seats that were decayed had been repaired, and several new ones erected. The work of

widening the road in the sportsground to allow for the better turning of cars, had been completed. The sportsground was in excellent order, and all eight cricket pitches were in use. The fernery was at its best and was proving more popular than last year. A small amount of timber had been purchased for repair work on bridges and seats.

A letter was received from Mr. C. H. Burgess stating that, provided the money, with accumulated interest, was repaid within two years, he had no objection to the Burgess Trust fund of approximately £424 10s being used to assist in building the superintendent's residence. Mr. Horton presented a rough plan of the required residence of six rooms. Messrs. H. V. S. Griffiths, T. Parker, F. Amooore, and P. E. Stainton were appointed a sub-committee to go into the question of plans for the residence.

It was decided to send a letter of appreciation to the New Plymouth Borough Council in connection with the asphaltting of the main entrance to the park. The opinion was expressed by several members that the work was a great improvement to the park.

It was decided to make an inspection of the park on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 19.

The offer of Mr. Parker to donate "punga" slabs for a table for the fernery was accepted with thanks.

Several accounts were passed for payment.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

A letter was received from the Borough Council agreeing to subsidise 10s in the £ up to £400 to assist in the erection in the Superintendent's residence.

TH, FEBRUARY 20, 1930
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the park on Wednesday afternoon, when there were present Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), H. V. S. Griffiths, R. W. Tate, H. Dempsey, F. Parker, and P. E. Stainton (secretary), and the superintendent (Mr. T. H. Horton). An inspection of a portion of the grounds was made, during which the site for the erection of the superintendent's house was decided upon, the locality chosen being close to the old cottage, with a frontage to Victoria Road. Satisfaction was expressed by the board members at the progress of the work in the park, and some minor decisions were reached in regard to certain other work to be done.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

The superintendent was authorised to remove branches of trees and any trees necessary to ensure protection of the house and a view of the park.

TH, FEBRUARY 26, 1930
ENGLISH CRICKETERS
VISIT OF GILLIGAN'S MEN

The members of the English touring cricket team arrived in New Plymouth from Auckland, via Waitomo and Te Kuiti, on Tuesday evening, and

commenced their final match of the tour at Pukekura Park to-day. Messrs. F. E. Woolley and G. B. Legge did not accompany the team to New Plymouth. The party consisted of 13, including Mr. Ferguson, the official scorer, who has scored for many touring teams and the test matches in Australia and England for many years. S. Worthington, who received some injury to his leg during the later stages of the fourth test match, is being held as twelfth man for to-day's match. Under the circumstances it was not difficult for the captain of the visiting team to announce his team for the match on Tuesday evening, as the absence of the two players who did not come to New Plymouth, and the injury of Worthington, left him only eleven players, so A. H. H. Gilligan did the unprecedented thing of announcing the team before the day of the match.

There are no defections from the Taranaki team, and the teams for the match are therefore as follows: -
M.C.C.

A. H. H. Gilligan (capt.), F. Barratt, E. T. Benson, E. H. Bowley, W. Cornford, E. W. Dawson, K. S. Dulepsinhji, G. F. Earle, M. S. Nichols, M. J. Turnbull, M. J. C. Allom. Reserve: S. Worthington.

TARANAKI.

C. N. Kingstone (capt.), H. Barker, H. W. Brown, J. Cheevers, C. G. Clarke, R. Eden, St. Giddy, S. A. Lay, O. M. Nasmith, A. Petty, T. Young. Reserves: S. Betts, F. J. Eggleton, G. Maloney.

TH, APRIL 15, 1930

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Monday evening at the Borough Council Chambers, there being present: Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), R. C. Hughes, H. V. S. Griffiths, R. W. Tate, B.M., C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, H. Dempsey, F. Parker, G. M. Spence, and the secretary (Mr. P. E. Stainton). The park superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) was also present.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The superintendent reported that a certain amount of necessary repair work had been done on the bridges in the park, but the work was only of a temporary nature, and the bridges would require a thorough overhaul before long. The silt from Brooklands Road that had been deposited in the waterways leading to the lakes had been removed and spread out over the long island. The pines near the proposed site of the superintendent's house, the removal of which had been authorised, had been felled and sold.

A portion of the planting for winter display of blooms had been done, but the remainder of this work could not be carried out until the plants in the beds and borders had finished blooming. Gifts had been received during the month from Messrs. R. Davies (ferns), R. W. Tate (narcissi), and B. H. Just (assorted bulbs). Mr. F. Parker had made and erected a suitable punga table for the fernery. The best thanks of the board were due to Mr. Stephens and the Hygienic Bakery for generous supply of food for the birds during the past year.

He also reported that three pinus insignis trees had been taken down in preparation of the building of the superintendent's new house.

In conclusion, the superintendent drew the attention of the board to the fact that the sanitary conveniences for the women and children at the park were absolutely inadequate during the holiday season, especially when sports and other large functions were being held on the sportsground. The trouble was accentuated by the fact that no conveniences for women and children were provided on the sportsground.

A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Griffiths and Short, was appointed to confer with the sportsground committee with a view to better sanitary conveniences for the women and children.

Mr. Stainton suggested that the board could assist the superintendent in the carrying out of his work if more frequent visits were made to the grounds. As an alternative to that they might set up a works committee which would make periodical visits of inspection. This would help in the carrying out of a definite scheme of improvements.

The members of the board agreed with the proposal, and a committee consisting of Messrs. Amoore, Parker, Spence and Stainton was appointed to make a special inspection of the grounds and report board on scheme of development.

It was resolved to obtain 50 yards of gavel for the walks in the park, and the matter was left in the hands of the chairman and secretary.

It was decided to ask the Borough Council to allow the engineer to prepare plans and specifications as soon as possible for the erection of a dwelling house for the superintendent of the park on a site near the croquet lawns, with a frontage to Victoria Road.

Thanks were tendered to Mr. Parker for the erection of a punga table for the fernery, to Messrs. Davis, Tate and Just for gifts to the park, and to Mr. W. C. Weston for the use of his office as a meeting room for the board for many years. The meetings will in future be held at the council buildings.

REVENUE FROM FERNERY.

A return was presented by the superintendent showing the value of the fernery and the boats from a revenue-producing standpoint. The return showed that the receipts from the fernery during the ended March 31 were £313 17s 6d, and from the boats on the lake £131 10s 9d, a total of £445 8s 3d. In the previous year the fernery receipts were £310 0s 3d, and the boat receipts £88 14s 6d, a total of £398 14s 9d.

REVENUE FROM SPORTSGROUND.

The matter or the revenue from the sportsground was discussed at some length, and the relation of the sportsground to the Park board and the subsidy paid by the committee to the board. The matter arose out of a letter from the committee to the board in which it was stated they agreed to the request of the board for the subsidy to be increased from £175 to £200 a year, on

condition that the expenditure on labour did not exceed that amount.

Mr. Stainton pointed out that for the past year the committee's subsidy had been £175 and the board's expenditure on the ground had been about £200, so that with the extra £25 they should come out about even. He suggested they might investigate the position to see if the ground could not be made a source of greater revenue to the board. Even if they came out even there was still a portion of the superintendent's salary which should be debited against the sportsground. He did not wish to appear to be splitting straws, but he thought the board should be getting more than it was receiving.

Mr. Hughes expressed surprise that the board was not making anything out of the sportsground, which ought to be turning in £200 a year.

Mr. Bellringer presented the other side of the matter when he emphasised the fact that the ground had never been in better condition than it was at present, and this was the result of the wise and careful administration of the committee having control of it. He thought the ground was being looked after much more efficiently than could be done by the board. He also stressed the fact that every penny of revenue the ground earned went back on to the ground in the form of improvements. If the board was able to come out even with the committee and have the ground in its present condition the matter was not unsatisfactory.

Mr. Horton explained that a great many more improvements were being made from time to time, all of which were paid for by the sportsground committee. A considerable amount of extra labour had been engaged on the ground during the past year which had been paid for by the committee.

The chairman suggested that perhaps some of the time spent by the groundsman on the sportsground could be devoted to work in other parts of the park.

The superintendent pointed out that he spent five days a week on the ground for the greater part of the summer, but he could be utilised more in other parts of the park during the winter period. The cutting or grass in the summer involved a large amount of time and work.

Other members accepted the View of Mr. Bellringer, and on the motion of Mr. Stainton it was resolved to thank the committee for the increased subsidy, and to congratulate them on the improvement in the condition of the ground and its surroundings.

TH, APRIL 15, 1930

FELLING PINES IN PARK

When the matter of cutting down some pinus insignis trees to make room for the erection of a dwelling for the superintendent of Pukekura Park in the park came before the board at its meeting on Monday evening, Mr. R. C. Hughes again made protest, as he has often done in the past, against the practice of taking down trees. "To cut down these glorious

monarchs of the forest so ruthlessly is nothing short of a crime." he said. It was explained that many of the trees had served their purpose, and some of them were beginning to die, and were becoming a menace to safety. One of the finest old trees in the park was beginning to die at the top, and would soon have to be taken down. To this Mr. Hughes replied that it would time enough to order a man's coffin when he had died, and Mr. Stainton's answer was that "It would be better to say: "The King is dead; long live the King."

TH, MAY 14, 1930

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), H. V. S. Griffiths, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker, H. Dempsey, G. M. Spence, R. C. Hughes, J. M'Leod, and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported that the area known as the maze had been mown and the grass and rubbish burned. The main path around the hilltop near Chaney's, which had so long been neglected, had also been mown and burned, and overhanging branches cut off, sycamores grubbed, etc. The whole of the Vogeltown path had been grubbed up, regraded, and metalled, and the Carrington Road walk was being similarly dealt with.

In the sportsground the protecting rail fence that was around part of the playing area had been continued so that the whole area was now enclosed. This new railing, together with the old part, was now being painted white, and the work was a great improvement to this part of the board's property. The iron fence facing Fillis Street was also being painted.

A fairly considerable fire swept a portion of the Fillis Street area last Saturday, but did practically no damage. As there were no fires lit by the members of the staff anywhere near the locality it must have been caused by some careless person or children.

Commenting on the fire, the chairman suggested that steps should be taken to prevent a recurrence of such a thing, as the risk to the park was a very serious one.

Mr. Spence said the occurrence was unusual, and he believed it was the first time in fifty years that anything of the kind had happened. The undergrowth had been cut and was very dry, and it looked as if some irresponsible person had dropped a match which caused the trouble. It would probably never happen again, and he did not think there was much cause for alarm.

It was decided to call tenders for the erection of a residence for the superintendent, and the chairman was appointed to supervise the work when in hand.

Thanks was expressed to, Mr. M'Kinnon (Gisborne) for the donation of a

collection of narcissi bulbs, valued at about £80, which he had sent to the superintendent for the park.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

re Park Development: The committee submitted a comprehensive report covering suggestions for a definite Policy of development and it was resolved that Board Members meet in the park on Wednesday at 3 p.m. and further consider the report.

TH, MAY 14, 1930

VISITORS TO THE FERNERY.

The number of visitors to the fernery at Pukekura Park, as disclosed by the entries in the visitors' book, was commented upon by Mr. G. M. Spence at the meeting of the Park Board on Tuesday, and he said the visitors' book was serving a most valuable purpose in that connection. The names were those of people from all parts of New Zealand, and also from other countries, and the appreciative comments also written in the book were very encouraging to those who were trying to develop the park.

DOGS IN THE PARK.

The nuisance, of dogs straying in Pukekura Park was the subject of a comment by the superintendent in his report to the board on Tuesday. Mr. Horton said there were many dogs straying about the grounds doing damage to the flower beds. Some of them were without collars, and he asked for instructions as how to deal with the trouble. After a short discussion the superintendent was authorised to destroy any dogs without collars found wandering about the grounds.

TH, MAY 22, 1930

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME.
SOME PINE TREES TO BE CUT.**

Members of the Pukekura Park Board on Wednesday afternoon inspected the areas concerned in the comprehensive scheme of development, submitted by a sub-committee at a recent meeting of the board. Those present were Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), H. V. S. Griffiths, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker, R. C. Hughes, and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary). The park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton accompanied the members.

The advisability of cutting four pine trees mentioned in the proposals, on the walk from the tea kiosk to John Street, was discussed by the members of the board. This idea is a continuation of an earlier proposal, and it is intended to complete the belt on the sportsground side of the path with a strip of kauris, rimus, pohutukawas and totaras in accord with the work already done. Young kauris of about four inches planted a few years ago, now show a growth of about 12 feet. The superintendent said this was due to the cultivated state of the ground. It would not be many years before the trees would, be of sufficient height to provide a background and shelter. Before this belt of native trees could be continued

some pine trees would have to be cut down.

It was pointed out that the forest-like appearance of the sky-line, at present visible from the playing field, should be preserved.

The walk past Mr. Chaney's is to be cleaned and a few small oaks cut. It was decided to clear the nearby hollow which fills a portion of the break between the eastern and southern terraces. All poplars and gums are to be cut down and a single leaning pine tree between Carrington Road and the lily lake removed.

Members thought that there should be a gradual removal of pine trees near the superintendent's residence to the slope on the eastern side of the main lake. Native trees should be planted in their stead.

OPUNAKE TIMES, MAY 23, 1930

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY
AT NEW PLYMOUTH

1899-TARANAKI W. 1899-BRITISH W.
1899-TARANAKI W. 1899-TARANAKI W. 1899-TARANAKI W.

THE BRITISH TEAM v. TARANAKI
THE BRITISH TEAM v. TARANAKI
THE BRITISH TEAM v. TARANAKI

SATURDAY, MAY 24. 3:30 p.m. SATURDAY, MAY 24.
SATURDAY, MAY 24. 3:30 p.m. SATURDAY, MAY 24.

PROCESSED BY STEPHENSON'S PRESS LTD. 18 9000.

STARTS OPEN AT 3:30 p.m. REFRESHMENTS ON GROUND.

SPECIAL TRAINS: DAY EXCURSION TRAINS TO SANDY BEACH.

ADMISSION CHARGES: Adults 7s, Boys 5s; Children 3s; Ladies 3s. (Children under 10 - 6d.)

Stand tickets are available on application (responded by mail) from the undersigned.

22 Taranaki Daily (1899) tickets for sale by this work.

W. A. HULLMAN, Sec. Y.R.F., Box 211 N.P.

RUGBY NOT OPEN - Tickets 2s each, or 5s for 4s will be on sale on the ground.

TH, MAY 23, 1930

SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE.

The tender of Mr. L. F. Haylock (£1080) has been accepted for the erection of a residence in Pukekura Park for the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. There were nine tenders.

TH, JULY 9, 1930

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The usual monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in New Plymouth on Tuesday evening, when there were present, Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), P. E. Stainton, G. M. Spence, R. W. Tate, F. Parker, W. Short, C. E. Bellringer, and T. Horton (superintendent).

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported that on May 23 the board met at the park and, after inspection decided that certain trees were to be felled. Most of these trees had since been removed and the balance would be cut down in the near future. Work was now in Progress thinning out and removing dead and useless branches from the trees. The three islands in the new lily lake had been trimmed up, dug and put in order.

The Gilbert Street path had been reformed and metalled. Several other paths had also been improved. Some

fifty trees had been planted and preparations were now in hand to plant further trees before the present planting season was over.

The patronage at the fernery was only fair, but as good as could be expected at this season of the year.

Mrs. M. Ainsworth wrote stating that, owing to ill-health, she intended vacating the kiosk at the park as from July 31 of this year. A sub-committee was appointed to deal with the matter.

After discussion it was decided that a meeting be held at the park at an early date in order to consider falling four pine trees near the superintendent's residence. It was stated that these trees were not beautiful and constituted a menace.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Bellringer that some of the rarer native trees be secured for the park. It was decided that the sum of £10 be spent in securing these trees.

Several accounts were passed for payment.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Superintendent's dwelling. The chairman reported the progress of the dwelling in question and it was agreed that progress payments be made on certificate of the chairman.

JULY 10, 1930

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

A special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the site of the curator's new house, when there were present Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), P. E. Stainton, H. V. S. Griffiths, R. C. Hughes, H. Dempsey, G. M. Spence, R. W. Tate, W. Short, C. E. Bellringer, and T. Horton (superintendent).

The chairman advised that the meeting had been called to consider the advisability of removing the six pine trees immediately in front of the superintendent's new residence. After a discussion it was resolved that the trees in question be cut down and the arrangements for same be left in the hands of the chairman, and the superintendent.

TH, JULY 11, 1930

PUKEKURA SPORTSGROUND

SCHEME FOR LIGHTING.

REPRESENTATIVES APPROVE.

The scheme drafted by Mr. W. H. Huggett for lighting the Pukekura Park Sportsground was approved on Thursday

evening by a meeting of representatives of the Pukekura park Board, the Sportsground Committee and the Amateur Athletic Club. There were present: Messrs. E. Jackson (chairman), G. H. Weir, W. H. Huggett, F. S. Varnham, and Dr. G. H. Thomson.

The scheme provides for the installation of track lights at intervals of 30ft. and a single row of centre lights over the Sportsground. At that distance, the light would diffuse evenly, dark patches and glare being obviated. Vision obstruction would, be restricted to a minimum by the

use of iron railway rails fixed in concrete. The estimated cost is about £400, and the scheme is to be placed before the Borough Council for approval. The work is to be put in hand as soon as possible after approval has been gained.

It was decided to write to the council, Pukekura Park Sportsground Committee, and the Taranaki Rugby Union, and place the position before them, together with a request for assistance in the matter of funds.

The action of the committee in obtaining a trial of the floodlight system was approved.

The committee accorded a hearty vote of thanks, upon the motion of Mr. Jackson, to Mr. Huggett for the time he had spent and the keen manner in which he had sought details with regard to the lighting systems.

TH, SEPTEMBER 10, 1930

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING LIGHTING THE SPORTSGROUND ATHLETES' SCHEME CONSIDERED.

The Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday evening considered a scheme for lighting the sportsground, submitted by the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic Club. A deputation was received representative of the club and the Cricket Association, the speakers for the latter objecting to the scheme submitted in some of its phases.

The members of the Park Board present were: Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), R. W. Tate, C. E. Bellringer, G. M. Spence, R. C. Hughes, J. McLeod, H. Dempsey, F. Parker, W. F. Short, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent).

An apology for absence was received from Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths.

Of the deputation, Dr. G. H. Thomson and Mr. G. H. Weir represented the Athletic Club, and Messrs. C. G. Bottrill, D. F. C. Saxton and T. H. Bates the Cricket Association. Dr. Thomson outlined the scheme suggested by the club. In the first place a committee was appointed with delegates from the Park Board, the Sportsground Committee and the Athletic Club, with Mr. W. H. Huggett borough electrical engineer. Every aspect had been considered. A visit was paid to Wanganui, where the scheme in use at Cook's Gardens was inspected during the progress of a sports meeting. Also details of other schemes (including those in use at Wellington and Christchurch) were considered, and one suitable to New Plymouth and reasonable in expense was decided upon. A demonstration of the latest flood lighting as used in railway yards and on Sydney grounds was tried, but it proved inapplicable here. It was agreed then to adopt the Scheme recommended by Mr. Huggett and considered the best in New Zealand and Australia.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME.

It provided for a row of lights set in the banks round the playing area, 30 feet apart, with two longitudinal rows east and west hanging over the ground. These

lit up the grounds like daylight, but the expense was too great. It was decided to amend the scheme and bring a line of lights six feet out from the football touchline, ranging from the pohutukawa tree at the entrance to the pole at the other end of the ground. The modified plan was approved, and referred to the board.

The Cricket Association brought two strong objections to the scheme at a meeting on Monday evening last. The first was that the present track cut across their practice wickets and caused danger to batsmen. It was agreed to bring the track in six feet at the northern end, though it meant making sharper a bend which already was awkward for cyclists. The other objection was to any lights suspended over the field. The Athletic Club maintained that if the lights were suspended on a cable six feet from the touch-line and 12ft. from the ground they would not interfere with cricketers.

It was further pointed out that the cricketers paid only £50 a year to the Sportsground Committee, and it was understood this paid only part of the wages of the groundsman who prepared the wickets. The Athletic Club maintained that if the lights were erected, with increased attendances it would return more than £50 a year.

Mr. Bottrill said Dr. Thomson had put the position fairly enough. The cricketers realised that they would have to accede to some of the requests in order to help the athletes. But they did not agree entirely that there was a need for lights at all. It was understood the shades of the lights would be 17 inches by 36 inches, which would prove an obstruction to spectators on the banks and to fieldsmen. Also, the globes must be hit, frequently by cricket balls, with consequent danger to players through broken glass.

DETRIMENTAL TO CRICKET.

The scheme, if gone through with as it was, would ruin cricket at the park.

As for the payment of £50 for the use of the grounds, the speaker pointed out that the Cricket Association paid a percentage of the takings. Last season £40 was taken on the M.C.C. game, making the association's contribution for the season £90.

Mr. McLeod: Is there any objection to a cable if the shades are removed?

Mr. Bottrill said there would be no objection to the cable alone, though they preferred neither cable nor shades.

Mr. Huggett said the shades could be taken down, but it would mean a two-hour job. As for breaking globes, guards could be fixed to save the lights.

Mr. Saxton said that there was another aspect apart from sport. Many people in New Plymouth and Taranaki would object to disfiguring the ground with lights and spoiling it to a certain extent. The scheme had not been unanimously approved, as stated, as he had not voted for it at a meeting of the Sportsground Committee.

After discussing the matter following the deputation's retirement, it was moved by

McLeod: "That the board, though it is opposed to any cable across the ground at all if the lighting can be satisfactorily arranged otherwise, is agreeable to the lighting system as outlined by Dr. Thomson, on condition that the globes and shades be of a movable nature and removed after each evening's meeting." The motion was seconded by Mr. Bellringer and carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Reporting on the supervision of Pukekura Park during the past month to the Park Board on Tuesday evening, the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) stated that in addition to routine work, special work had been done. The four boats had received their annual overhaul and two coats of paint, both inside and out. Trees authorised to be removed had been felled and disposed of, as far as could possibly be done this season. Planting of native trees had been done on the western hill face, near the new house, and trees had been planted in various parts of the park where needed most. A total of 390 trees had been planted altogether this season, including 250 pohutukawa, and the balance were mostly varieties of native trees which were not formerly growing in the park. All but 70 of the pohutukawa were grown in the park nursery. A totara hedge had been planted on the north side of the new house, and 10 chains of new fencing had been erected. New timber had been purchased and repairs done at the kiosk where essential.

A new bridge was now being erected over the stream at the far end of the long island. This work was imperative, as the old bridge was in a rotting condition and positively unsafe. The borders from the Gilbert Street entrance and in other parts had been dug and put in order, and necessary pruning had been done. The fernery had been thoroughly overhauled and everything there promised well for the coming season.

The torrential downpour on August 24 resulted in a tremendous volume of water coming into the lake at the intake near Brooklands entrance, causing a wash-out at the recently erected dam there, and large quantities of clay and mud were brought in, practically filling the ditches. Repairs to the dam had been effected, and most of the mud shovelled out of the ditches, but a great deal more mud would have to be removed in the summer when the water was low.

The returned soldiers sent by the Returned Soldiers' Association were being employed on the sports ground and at various jobs in the park. The necessary work on the sports ground was being attended to, and this area was in good condition for this time of the year.

OTHER BUSINESS.

The Western Park Board thanked the board for a gift of young pohutukawas for use at Western Park.

The Sportsground Committee forwarded a cheque for £20 to be applied to unemployment relief in the park in conjunction with the Returned Soldiers' Association, who were subsidising that amount.

The East End Bathing Reserve Committee thanked the board for a gift of native plants for the reserve and for advice given by the superintendent.

The appointment of Mrs. G. Burrows as lessee of the park kiosk, in place of Mrs. Ainsworth, who gave up the position through illness, was confirmed.

The Napier Thirty Thousand Club asked for samples of the most common and hardiest water-lilies grown in the park ponds. It was stated that it was desired to establish lilies in the lake in the grounds of the Napier Boys' High School. It was decided to forward the specimen as requested.

The chairman reported that the superintendent's house was almost completed and ready for occupation. The paths were yet to be done, and the arrangement for this work was left to the chairman. It was decided to use what material was necessary from the old cottage for building a shed and break-wind for the new house.

TH, DECEMBER 10, 1930 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING PARK BOARD'S FINANCES DEFICIT OF £150 EXPECTED POSITION AS AT MARCH 31.

A deficit of £150 is forecasted for the end of the Pukekura Park Board's financial year at March 31 next. A meeting of the board was held on Tuesday night, when there were present Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, H. V. S. Griffiths, H. Dempsey, J. McLeod, W. F. Short, F. Parker, R. C. Hughes, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. H. Horton (superintendent).

With all subsidies due up to March 31 paid, the board at present had a credit balance of £39 4s 5d, said Mr. Stainton. It had to repay £100 bequest money which should not have been used for general park purposes. The sum of £500 had been received from the Taranaki Rugby Union from the proceeds of the art union, and with this the amount of £440 borrowed from the C. H. Burgess trust for the superintendent's residence had been re-funded. Three months' wages to be paid would amount to about £375, against which the boats and

fernery should bring in £250 or £260, leaving a deficit of £140 or £150. The board's funds would have to be carefully nursed.

Mr. McLeod suggested advertising the fernery in hotels, motor camps, etc., and Mr. Griffiths suggested the trams. It was resolved to have cards printed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The superintendent, Mr. T. H. Horton, reported that bad weather had made it difficult to keep the park in its usual good condition. Rough weather had brought down several trees and large branches, but they had been cleared. Normal spring work such as digging borders, pruning, planting, clearing drains, repairing seats, painting boats, etc., had been completed, and the usual maintenance was now being attended to. The young trees planted during the past season were all doing well, also the young trees in the nursery.

The fernery was in better condition than it had ever been and had been appreciated by visiting experts. The buildings urgently required painting, and he found that it would not be possible to do it with the regular staff.

The old cottage and shed had been pulled down. Some of the timber and fittings had been handed to Major Sandford for the Boy Scouts and most of the other timber had been utilised in other directions.

The sportsground was looking particularly well. The grass on the terraces had been cut, cricket pitches were receiving attention, and the new lighting system had been installed.

Roses and Water Lilies.

The special features of the park at present were the roses and water lilies. For Christmas he expected a big display of begonias in the fernery.

A letter was received from the Taranaki Rugby Union forwarding £500 out of the proceeds of the art union, as previously arranged. The secretary read a letter of thanks that had been sent to the union.

Permission was granted the Queen Alexandra Band (Wanganui) to give a recital in the park on the evening of January 1.

In consideration of his being allowed use of the house rent free and of the present economic position the superintendent offered to forgo £52 of his annual salary. Members commended Mr. Horton's offer, which is to be given effect to.



School Children Welcome Lord Bledisloe. *Auckland Weekly News*, June 25, 1930



Fred Parker Lawn *Taranaki Herald Xmas Supp*, December 13, 1930

1931

It was noted at the August committee meeting that a new entrance had been created at the end of Fillis Street.

The Tea House we see today was erected in 1931, and was the gift to the city of Mr and Mrs Burgess on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. It cost approximately £1000, but their generosity did not stop there, they also donated £150 for furnishing and later another £60 for silverware. It was designed by Surrey Alleman, of Inglewood and built by Frank Hartnell. The original tea house built in 1905, was moved towards the fernery and re-purposed as a ladies conveniences and curator's office by Frank Hartnell and some returned soldiers. Before building the new Tea House the old bathing shed that had stood next to the lake since 1879 was also moved, this was also relocated on the path leading from the Tea House to the fernery.

The first mention of a reserve at the Fillis Street gully was reported from the August committee meeting. "The chief work undertaken was that in the Fillis street gully. All the blackberry, gorse, fern, sycamore, and other useless growth had been grubbed and thoroughly cleaned up. This portion of the park was in good order. It would be desirable to plant the larger part of this area in native trees, but first the pines on the hill would have to be cut down."

Another new feature added to the park were two ticket boxes for the sportsground which were built and paid for by the Sportsground Committee, and still grace the park today, but sadly are not used.

The committee decided to cut down a row of fourteen pine trees on the ridge above the eastern terrace of the sportsground, which caused an uproar in the town. A delegation which included W. H. Skinner tried to dissuade them from that course of action. The deputation was convinced that the committee's intent was to eventually remove all the pine trees from the park. To try and allay any such fears the board issued a couple of resolutions.

1. The Intention of the board at their discretion and after full consideration of each case, is to remove any dangerous, dead, dying, or redundant trees, whether native or exotic.
2. That, while not excluding exotic flora, the board intend to make Pukekura Park a standard collection of native flora.

One committee member who vehemently opposed the cutting down of any pine tree was lawyer Robert Clinton Hughes and in reference to this, the satirical article below was published portraying the trees as defendants in a courtroom. The author of the article is unknown, but it may have been Hughes himself.

Court News

As everybody knows, a session of the Court was held in New Plymouth recently, or was it a drum-head court-martial? Mr. Justice (?) Park Board presided. The number of prisoners arraigned was extraordinarily large, and their variety was infinite, but most of them were from the well-known Insignis family. They were unrepresented by council, and being unable to speak the language of the Court officials they were compelled to state their case by means of signs and whispers.

"Have you no counsel?" asked the Judge sharply.

"Yes sir," chorused the accused. "Mr. Hughes!"

But alas, where was Mr. Hughes? Perhaps he had grown weary of the long struggle on behalf of his clients, all of whom he had known from childhood. Perhaps he had not been told that the session was on.

"Very well," continued His Honour, "we must make a start. Bring forth the first prisoner."

And everyone in the court stood silent as the prisoner entered the dock, for she was the loveliest girl they had set eyes on for a very long time. Slim and erect, she gazed proudly at the bench, her arms outstretched in supplication, and her wonderous features quivering with emotion.

"What is your name?" asked the Judge.

"Poplar sir."

"Where do you live?"

"Right at the very edge of your Domain sir, alongside Victoria Road."

"Yor nationality?"

"English sir."

"Prisoner at the bar," exclaimed His Honour sternly, "you are found guilty of the heinous crime of not being a New Zealander." Assuming the black cap the judge was about to pass sentence when the prisoner cried out piteously, "But can't I have a fair trial, sir, and put my case before the jury?"

"What jury?"

"Why, the people of New Plymouth, sir."

"Certainly not! They are too old-fashioned altogether, and can't keep pace with the times. Off with her head!"

And with Mr. Groundsman as the Lord High Executioner off went her head forthwith. Suffice it to say that she had a fitting funeral, for after her limbs had been dismembered and her body sawn into pieces she was duly carried to her grave with fitting solemnity and dignity by an army corps of unemployed. But all this is by the way.

"Next please!" called out the judge impatiently.

A whole row of the Insignis family stepped into the dock.

"Where do you live?" asks His Honour, having ascertained their names.

"Along the ridge above the Eastern Terrace sir."

"You are old," said the judge, "and what is more you are not New Zealanders. Off with their heads! Next please."

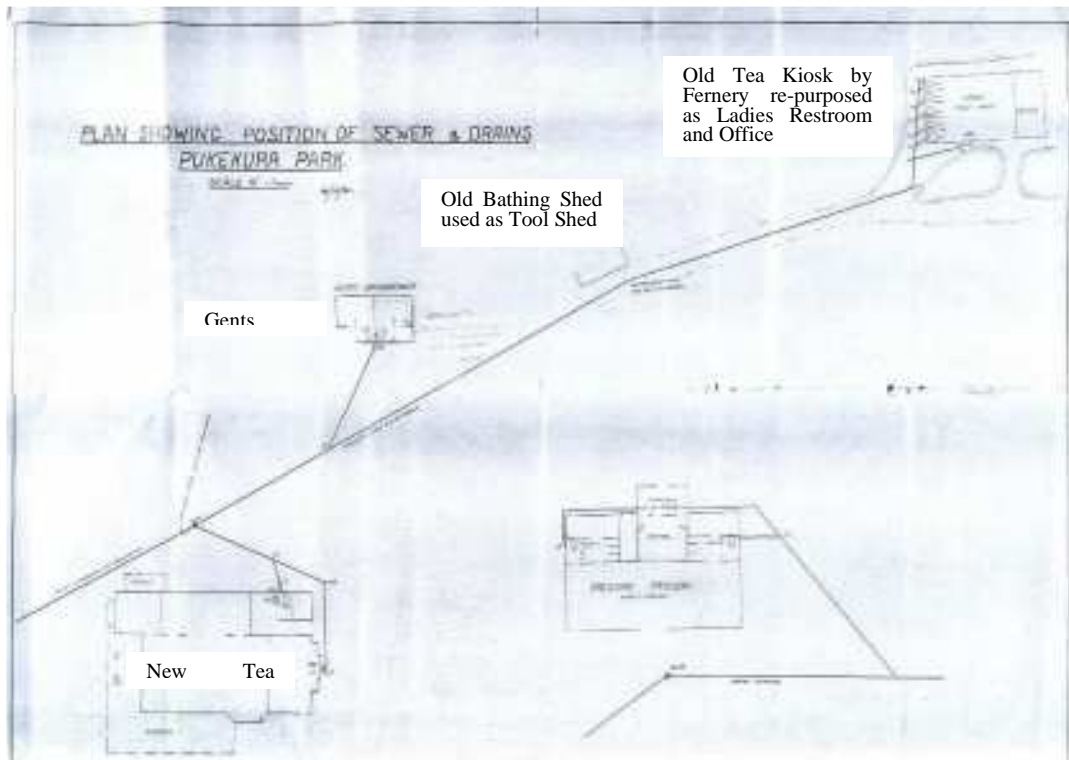
And so it went on. And soon the whole countryside resounded with the chop, chop, chop of the executioner's axe, as it plied its grim trade, and the whole countryside re-echoed with the monotony of that passionless sentence "Off with their heads!" Far away, however, a new note struck the ear. From a murmuring it grew to a rumble, and His Honour stirred uneasily in his chair. For it sounded uncomfortably like the voice of an enraged people.



Pukekura Park Kiosk opening day. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections AWNS-19311118-50-3



Thomas Horton on his Wedding Day (private collection, Warwick Horton)



Plan showing new drainage system when the new Tea House was built. Also indicated is the men's toilet, the relocated bathing shed and the relocated old tea house. (Park collection)



The old bathing shed being dismantled (Taranaki Herald, March 18, 1969)

**TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1931
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Borough Council Chambers on Tuesday evening. There were present: Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), R. C. Hughes, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, F. Parker, C. E. Bellringer, and T. Horton (superintendent).

Apologies were received from the Mayor, Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths, Messrs. P. E. Stainton, G. M. Spence, and R. W. Tate.

It was stated that by-laws regarding cycling on the paths in the park had lapsed, and that it would be necessary for the Borough Council to pass new by-laws. Messrs. Amoore, Hughes, Dempsey, and the secretary ex-officio, were appointed a sub-committee to confer with the council on the subject.

A letter was received from the Borough Council asking for a list of sub-leases of portions of the park grounds. It was stated that seven sub-leases were in force, including a seven years' lease to the New Plymouth Sport Ground Committee as from September 1, 1927, all rental to be used in improvements; a lease of about a quarter of an acre to the Taranaki Jockey Club, on which the caretaker's cottage has been erected; a lease to the Park Tennis Club of a piece of land laid out in tennis courts at a rental of £7 10s per annum; and four personal leases.

It was resolved that the board inspect the park at 4 p.m. on Tuesday February 24.

The superintendent, Mr. Horton, reported as follows: "Since my last report there has been mostly general work done, such as hoeing around trees, gathering and burning rubbish, and keeping drains and water-tables in good order. A good deal of cutting of grass fern, gorse and fennel has been done, and rough places tidied up. A large pine tree came down during a recent gale, destroying everything where it fell, and completely blocking two paths. There are two others which require weeding out. We had two unemployed men working for a few days and did a lot of clearing-up work.

The fernery is in good order, and the begonias and other flowers have been much admired. The number visitors this season has been considerably less than for the past two seasons.

Stray dogs have killed a couple of ducks, and I am awaiting instructions as to what steps I should take with dogs in the park."

**EVENING POST, MARCH 14, 1931
TEA HOUSE TENDERS**

When Mr. C. H. Burgess was Mayor of New Plymouth he devoted his honorarium for two years to form the nucleus of a fund for improvements at Pukekura Park. The nature of the improvements were to be decided by Mr. and Mrs. Burgess. On receipt of the money, the Pukekura Park Board invested the money, amounting to £300, in trust, and it now amounts to £430. Mr.

and Mrs. Burgess have decided to erect at the park new tea rooms, which are to cost approximately £1000. Competitive designs are to be asked for.

**POVETY BAY HERALD
APRIL 8, 1931
STATELY PINES**

Some of the stately pinus insignis trees in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, are 50 years old and 150ft high. At a rough estimate one tree has no less than 7000ft. of timber in it.

**WAIRARAPA TIMES
APRIL 30, 1931
FRIENDLY SPARROWS**

Unlike some of their less fortunate brethren, the sparrows that frequent the tea kiosk at Pukekura Park lead a life of luxury, and scorn the pursuit of worms and other dainties. Long experience has taught them that people having morning and afternoon tea will not hurt them. Often they perch on a table, while people are still sitting there, and most visitors enjoy the experience as much as the birds. In between times they sit there waiting on the trees in contented fluffy balls.

**TH, MAY 13, 1931
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
ERECTION OF TEA KIOSK.**

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday night, when there were present Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), R. W. Tate, F. Parker, W. F. Short, G. M. Spence, H. V. S. Griffiths, T. H. Horton (superintendent). An apology for absence was received from Mr. P. E. Stainton.

The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that a good deal of extra work had been done in the park, this having been made possible by the assistance of relief workers. The principal work undertaken was the thorough overhaul of the gully leading from the sportsground to the racecourse. This gully was a raupo swamp and had been thoroughly cleaned up. A permanent drain had been dug almost the entire length of the gully in order to allow the water to be drained off.

The sportsground had been attended to after the cricket season. The seating on the terraces had been repaired and should now last for a long time. The old office and tool shed had been removed to make room for the new tea kiosk. The building had been re-erected on a site at the rear of the old kiosk. To make room for this, some slight excavations were carried out. A thorough overhaul of the trees in the park had been commenced and would be continued during the coming winter. This work was absolutely essential for the preservation of all younger trees.

Messrs. F. Amoore, F. Parker, R. W. Tate and C. E. Bellringer were appointed a committee to confer with Mrs. C. H. Burgess regarding the erection of the new tea kiosk in the park. It was reported

that several designs had been received for the tea kiosk but none had seemed suitable. Mrs. Burgess had therefore made arrangements to have further plans submitted. These, however, were not yet to hand.

The question of whether certain of the pine trees in the gully behind the sportsground should not be cut down was raised by Mr. Spence. These trees were only checking native growth, he said. After a brief discussion it was decided that the board inspect the trees in question.

Reference was made by Mr. Spence to the fact that ticket boxes were being erected at the sportsground by the sportsground committee. He expressed the hope that these ticket boxes would be stained brown or some other colour which would harmonise with the surroundings. It was decided to write to the sportsground committee asking them to have the boxes stained or painted brown or some other colour which would harmonise with the colour scheme of the park.



Still in the Park today 91 years old. Photo - A Metcalfe

Messrs. Amoore, Tate and Parker were appointed a committee to confer with the sportsground committee regarding the erection of buildings in the park.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

re new tool shed: It was resolved that the action of the chairman in erecting a verandah in front of the tool shed in its new position be approved.

Re superintendent: The chairman advised members of the Board that the superintendent was to be married towards the end of the present month and felicitous Greetings were extended to him by members of the Board.

**TH, JUNE 1, 1931
NEW TEA KIOSK**

The Pukekura Park Board meet Mrs. C. H. Burgess in the Park to-morrow afternoon to finally decide on the plan of the new tea kiosk which is to be erected as the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Burgess. It is understood a commencement will be made immediately with the building, the work being carried out by Mr. F. Hartnell to the plan of Mr. S. Alleman. Both the builder and the architect have been selected by Mrs. Burgess.

TH, JUNE 2, 1931

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Present: Mr. F. Amooore (chairman), R. C. Hughes, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, H. Dempsey, P. E. Stainton and Mrs. C. H. Burgess.

The chairman advised that the meeting had been called to consider and if considered satisfactory to approve the plan for the new Tea-Kiosk as submitted to Mrs. C. H. Burgess. On the motion of Messrs. Bellringer and Dempsey the plan was unanimously approved and it was agreed that the whole matter of erection of the Tea-Kiosk be left in the hands of Mrs. Burgess and for any details which she may require information about that this matter be left in the hands of the special building committee set up by the Board.

TH, JULY 15, 1931

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, when there were present: Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), G. M. Spence, R. W. Tate, W. F. Short, F. Parker, T. Horton (superintendent). Apologies for absence were received.

A letter received from the Sportsground Committee protested against reported remarks of certain board members regarding sanitary conveniences and ticket-boxes to be erected in the park by the committee. The remarks, said Mr. Spence, had apparently raised a storm in a teacup.

Mr. Tate said that the point raised by Mr. Spence at the previous meeting was merely as to the colour which the ticket-boxes were to be painted. Out of that arose the general question of the site and design of the sanitary buildings. It was agreed to write the Sportsground Committee explaining the position.

The East End Committee wrote asking the board if it could provide the committee with shrubs for planting in the reserve. The matter was left to the superintendent.

A donation of £25 was received from an anonymous donor, with the request that the money be spent on giving work to the unemployed in the park. Thanks were expressed for the gift.

The action of the chairman in authorising the erection of a few chains of fencing along the Fillis Street boundary of the park was confirmed.

The superintendent reported that maintenance work had been carried on as usual during the past month. Considering the time of the year and the prevailing rough weather, the park was in good condition. Pruning and thinning out had been done as far as possible, and this would enable the remaining trees to grow and to develop into good specimens. The borders at the top end of the coloured water lily lakes had been extended and some 80 hydrangeas had been planted there. They comprised about 40 specimens of the best varieties, and should make an attractive show. The last of the pines authorised to be felled on the hill had been topped preparatory

to felling. When this was done planting in the area would be completed.

Several hundred young pohutukawa trees in the nursery were badly cut by the heavy frosts. The row of pines on the hilltop at the Fillis Street gully had been trimmed, and planting could be proceeded with. Fifty new name plates had been written and attached to trees. It was intended to continue this work as opportunity offered. The boats had been painted and were in good condition for the coming season. Relief workers were employed to clear up the Fillis Street section, as this was a mass of gorse and blackberry.

At the present time the fernery was being given its annual overhaul. This comprised principally the cutting, thinning out, and reducing of excessive growth, and replenishing the soil with fresh leaf mould. The builders had commenced work on the new tea kiosk, which was now well under way. Considering the heavy usage of the Rugby season the sportsground was in excellent order. The ticket-boxes erected by the Sportsground Committee were now completed.

TH, AUGUST 12, 1931

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening. Those present were: Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), R. C. Hughes, G. M. Spence, R. W. Tate, C. E. Bellringer, J. McLeod, H. V. S. Griffiths, W. F. Short, F. Parker, and T. Horton (superintendent).

A good deal of special work had been undertaken during the month, stated the superintendent in his report. This had been made possible by the assistance of relief workers. The chief work undertaken was that in the Fillis street gully. All the blackberry, gorse, fern, sycamore, and other useless growth had been grubbed and thoroughly cleaned up. This portion of the park was in good order. It would be desirable to plant the larger part of this area in native trees, but first the pines on the hill would have to be cut down. A fence had been erected and a gateway made to provide an entrance to the park from the end of Fillis street.

The work of pruning, thinning, and cutting useless growth had been continued and was now well advanced. Special attention had been given to the avenue of permanent trees on the John Street walk, and by the removal of growth these trees had every chance of developing into very fine specimens.

One hundred and ten assorted native trees were given to the East End Reserve from the park's own nursery. Pohutukawas and karaka had been planted on the hilltop at the back of the sportsground; seventy assorted native trees and 100 totaras (for a hedge) had been planted on the old cottage site. Other trees had been planted in various parts of the park. Altogether 500 native trees had been planted during the month, and practically all of these had been supplied from the park's own nursery. As a rough estimate the superintendent

estimated the value of the trees grown in the nursery since its inception five years ago at £150. Further, fifty young pohutukawa trees had been donated to Western park.

Both bridges near the waterfall had been overhauled. The sides were practically all new. Work of reconstructing the bridge over the stream between the Swings and the rose bed was now in hand. This bridge was dangerous, and an almost new structure was being erected. The new bridge would be wider and stronger than the old one.

The superintendent was authorised to continue the work of rearing young trees and plants in nursery. Several members spoke of the desirability of rearing trees, and it was further decided to spend a sum not exceeding £10 annually in purchasing rare native plants and trees.

It was decided to hold a special meeting of the board in the park to discuss improvements to the Fillis Street gully.

AUGUST 14, 1931

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Present were: Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), R. C. Hughes, G. M. Spence, R. W. Tate, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker, and P. E. Stainton (Hon. Secretary)

The chairman advised that the meeting had been called in particular to inspect the pine trees at the back of the Sports Ground numbering about 14 in all.

After a general inspection and discussion it was resolved on the motion of Messrs. Spence and Bellringer for the superintendent to be authorised to have the whole of the pine trees in question removed as soon as he had suitable trees available to plant out this area.

re Sewer: The borough engineer was present and conferred with the board regarding the proposed route for the sewer to come through the park connecting up with the Tea-kiosk and also Brooklands Road. After a discussion it was resolved that the route proposed by the engineer be approved on the understanding that the least possible inconvenience be caused to visitors to the park and also that footpaths be put back in good order and condition.

TH, AUGUST 15, 1931

PUKEKURA PARK KIOSK.

The new kiosk in Pukekura Park that is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess is steadily nearing completion. Already the building is advanced far enough to give of what a very handsome structure it will be when finished. The red-tiled roof sets off the snug kiosk excellently. At present the exterior plastering of the walls is being done. These are to be finished off with a cream coating. The window frames are in place, and on one side of the building some of the glazing has been done. The interior has not assumed more than a skeleton shape, but the work is well forward. The building is an object of great interest to the many visitors to the park.

TH, AUGUST 21, 1931

FELLING OF PINE TREES

PREPARING FOR NATIVE SHRUBS.

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD POLICY.

Some concern has been expressed lately at the tree felling in Pukekura Park, and especially at the proposed chopping or the line of pines on the crest of the hill above the eastern terraces. The opinion has been stated that a deal more rooting out than is necessary has been done.

The board's policy is not one of wanton slashing and clearing, states the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton. It is aimed at planting the park with native trees, eliminating useless ones that have reached a senile state and by their presence retard the growth of young plants, and encouraging flowering plants that will induce native birds to live in the park.

The decision to take down the fourteen pinus insignis trees that break the skyline above the eastern terraces was made at the last board meeting, after an inspection and careful consideration. The trees are showing signs of decay and, even if it was not deemed necessary to take them out next year, they would have to be felled in a few years' time.

Situated as they are, they form a tunnel up which the wind blows with such force that plant life under or near the trees is impossible. It is intended to plant the Fillis Street gully with fast growing native shrubs and, if the pines are not first removed, the shrubs will be well established when the time comes for the big old trees to fall. As the pines can only fall towards the gully, it would mean damaging the young plants. On the other hand, if the pines are left till they drop through old age or decay, valuable growing time for the youngsters will be lost.

In deciding to fell the pines the board is looking ahead eight or ten years, by which time the gully should be a real natural beauty spot. The fourteen pinus insignis are not to be cut down till next year. When the time is right for planting the shrubs.

It has been noticed that clearing has been done in various parts of the park. Where considered advisable trees such as the foreign sycamore have been taken out, for the reason that they shed so many leaves that they are a nuisance and that they affect the growth of young native shrubs nearby. But extensive and judicious planting has been going on all the time. The board has been careful to put aside money at certain times for the purchase of rare native plants.

TH, SEPTEMBER 9, 1931

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Affairs in connection with the Pukekura Park were discussed at a meeting of the Park Board held on Tuesday night. Present were: Mr. F. Amoore (chairman), P. E. Stainton, R. C. Hughes, H. Dempsey, C. E. Bellringer, J. McLeod, H. V. S. Griffiths, W. F. Short, F. Parker and T. Horton (superintendent). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. R. W. Tate and G. M. Spence.

The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that, since the last meeting, the work of putting the sewerage through the park had been commenced and had necessitated the lowering of the level of the water in the upper lake. Advantage had been taken of this to remove mud from the top end of the lake and two water channels leading into it. Quite a lot remained to be done but, with the assistance of relief workers, the task was proceeding at a good rate.

Further general work done was detailed in the report. The nursery had been straightened up and more native trees planted out. Two thousand young trees should be available for the next planting season. During the ensuing month it was proposed to overhaul the sportsground playing area, this including top-dressing and seed-sowing, and to prepare the cricket pitches for the coming season.

The Fitzroy Seaside Park Society wrote asking the board for any shrubs and native trees which it might have at its disposal.

It was stated that there was nothing available this year but that the request would be kept in view.

It was decided to arrange with Mrs. C. H. Burgess to meet the board in the park to discuss the work on the new tea kiosk and the general finalising of arrangements in connection with the building.

Several accounts were passed for payment.

**TREE-FELLING IN PARK
MAGNIFICENT PINES DESTROYED
Deputation Waits on Board
WHOLESALE BUTCHERY ALLEGED
Storm Of Protest Aroused**

"We are not come here in any spirit of carping criticism and we are very sensible of the many improvements which have been effected in the park in recent years," stated a member of a deputation which waited on the Pukekura Park Board at its meeting on Tuesday night to voice strong disapproval at what was described as the "wholesale butchering" of the great pinus insignis trees in the reserve, to express the hope that no further of the trees would be felled and that some of the damage done by this "wholesale butchering" might be in a small measure repaired by the planting of young pine trees. The deputation, comprised 28 members and was headed by Mr. Gordon Fraser.

In introducing the deputation, Mr. Fraser thanked the board for its interest in the park and its management of the park's affairs. Members of the deputation, like those of the board, were nature lovers and had the welfare of the park truly at heart. However, in the board's scheme of developments there was one thing with which they did not agree and that was in the wholesale destruction of the great pinus insignis trees which were the outstanding feature of the park. Mr. Fraser then introduced Miss C. A. Douglas, the deputation's first speaker.

In coming before the board, the deputation had in mind three things, said Miss Douglas. Firstly, there was the park as it had been in the past; secondly, the park as it is to-day; and thirdly, the park

as it would be in future. They loved Pukekura Park and they admired it. When visitors, many from overseas, praised it, they were proud. The configuration of the park, stated Miss Douglas, was a truly remarkable one and its principal feature was the ridges crowned with great pine trees. Members or the deputation, with many others, had felt a good deal of uneasiness at the change which had gradually crept over the park in the past few years. Previously they had not wakened up to that change, but they were awake now.

THE WESTERN HILLSIDE BARE.

While members of the deputation had no complaint make regarding the architecture of the superintendent's residence, said Miss Douglas, they did not want to see it from the park. Many fine pine trees which formerly grew on the western bank or the park in front of the residence had been cut down, leaving the hillside bare, so that people in the park could see not only the superintendent's residence but also traffic passing up and down the road behind the house. In a recent interview the board's secretary had explained that the trees had been cut away in order that the superintendent might have a better view over the park and that the danger of destruction by vandalism was therefore considerably lessened. She did not find vandalism a satisfactory explanation for the felling of these fine trees, remarked Miss Douglas.

The speaker went on to say that the complaints and views of the deputation had been Committed to writing and she presented the following written statement:—

CASE FOR THE TREES.

"Believing the case against the pinus insignis trees in the park to be 'not proven,' and that a good case for them can be made on the score of shelter, rapid growth, height and background qualities found separately in other trees, but not found combined in any other one species of tree, the deputation respectfully asks the board:—

"(a) To reconsider its policy as explained by the board's secretary in the Taranaki Herald of August 21.

"(2) To use every endeavour to preserve and retain the present pine trees in the park, whether in massed formation, groves, avenues or isolated specimens.

"(3) To replant as soon as possible with pinus insignis such areas on boundaries or the tops of ridges as will restore and preserve background and shelter for native trees, shrubs and ferns on the slopes of the hills and in the valleys and dells below.

"(4) To rescind the resolution by which the board decided to fell the pines on the ridge above the eastern terrace of the sportsground, and to replant with pinus insignis the northern slopes of this terrace.

REPLANT WESTERN HILL.

"(5) To replant with quickly-growing trees the slope below the superintendent's residence, so that it may no longer be seen from inside the park, and to replant the areas to the north and north-east of the residence with the

definite object of restoring those lines of contour, the loss of which is so markedly and unpleasantly noticeable from many points within the park.

"(6) To note especially the many gaps and holes that have appeared in the splendid belts of trees formerly surrounding the park and crowning the ridges, belts now rapidly becoming scanty and thin. These gaps and holes have been caused by the felling of trees and shrubs of different species and of varying heights and density. Through them are now to be seen very many buildings outside the park boundaries, thus destroying that sense of seclusion that has played so great a part in the attraction of the park. The board is asked to replant suitable trees in such a way as to fill up these gaps and holes as fast as possible and thus restore to the park some of its lost charm.

"(7) To plant or replant judiciously certain trees foreign to New Zealand (such as poplars and oaks) for the sake of variety and contrast of colour in foliage during the different seasons of the year."

A Tribute to Those Who Planted Them.

"There is just one thing I should like to say," remarked the next speaker, Mrs. R. Brewster, "and that is, if for no other reason, the great pines in the park should be left standing as a tribute to the foresight of the men who had planted them 50 years ago and who visualised them as they are to-day."

"I am not here in any fault-finding capacity," said Mr. W. H. Skinner, "but I do appeal to you to reconsider your dictum regarding the cutting down of those beautiful pinus insignis trees. In certain places in the park the felling of the trees had been quite justified, but in other spots the mark had been overstepped completely. The gaps created let in the draught and marred the park's outline and contour. The board should be very careful and call a halt."

He had followed with interest the doings of the board, said Dr. G. Home. However, in a walk around the park some ten days ago the gaps in the skyline had hit him very hard in the eye. For sentimental reasons and because of their educative value it would be a pity if the pine trees were felled. He understood that the board intended in time to cut down practically all the pine trees.

Chorus of board members: No! No!

Continuing, Dr. Home said that he was sorry if he had misjudged the board's policy. However, the park was a Mecca for nature-lovers and was of tremendous beauty and interest. It would be in its best interests if the felling of trees were discontinued.

SENTIMENT AND UTILITY.

There had been many improvements in Pukekura Park in recent years, remarked Archdeacon F. G. Evans. Big things had been done on the site of the fernery, but unfortunately this was not echoed in some other parts of the park. The view on its western side was appalling. There were two aspects from which this question of tree-felling could be viewed. The first was the sentimental aspect. The board should recognise that many of the

ladies and gentlemen of the deputation were present for sentimental reasons. Their fathers had planted the great trees which were being now destroyed. In the park was an open "book" on which were inscribed the names of some who had materially assisted the park. There were many who purposed bequests to the park and Archdeacon Evans suggested that they might be turned from their purpose and their sympathies alienated if this felling of trees went on. The second aspect was the utilitarian one. One of the reasons why pine trees had been originally planted was to give shelter. This was indeed very necessary. Without protection the native trees now being planted would be harmed by the violent winds. Further, people sightseeing in the park had been very glad of the shelter during their walks. It would be many, many years before native trees would grow to a useful size and in any way replace the pine trees now being felled.

IRREPARABLE DAMAGE DONE.

He associated himself with the deputation because he was entirely in sympathy with its objects, stated Dr. R. Brewster. During a recent visit to the park he had been absolutely astounded at the number of grand old trees which had been cut down, especially in the western aspect of the reserve. Irreparable damage had been done, and he hoped at least there would be no further destruction.

His family had always taken a very active interest in the park, said Mr. S. Crompton Smith, and he had great pleasure in associating himself with the deputation. One particularly pleasing view in Pukekura Park was the upper lake set between two hills of magnificent pines. This view had frequently been termed a "gem," but if the trees on either side were felled it would degenerate to a "mere pond in a gully." In their superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, the board had one of the most capable men at his job in New Zealand. If the board would abandon their tree-cutting policy and proceed on other lines he was confident that Mr. Horton could achieve the best results. However, the great pine trees should be allowed to stand.

A UNIQUE BEAUTY SPOT.

"As an old councillor, I fully appreciate the work and difficulties of this board," said Mr. E. Griffiths. All over the world the Pukekura Park was known in a very special way. There was nothing like it anywhere else. The reasons for this were its configuration and the magnificent pinus insignis trees which grew there in such numbers. The boards which at various times controlled the park came and went, but the park itself should not change. A few days ago when he last viewed the western portion of the park he thought a tornado had swept through it, remarked Mr. Griffiths. With the wind rushing through as at present, unprotected trees unused to such severe exposure would suffer. Mr. Griffiths called to mind one particular tree which had been planted in the park fifty-four years ago. This, he said, was one of the trees of the world. There were many other very fine pines in the park and these should be protected. The speaker suggested that the gaps caused through

the felling of so many great trees should be replanted with pinus insignis which had come to be looked on as an integral part of the park.

THE LIFE OF PINE TREE.

Though he did not actually belong to New Plymouth, he was very closely associated with it, said the deputation's final speaker, Mr. E. Maxwell. He had been invited to join the deputation in order that he might be able to answer any questions which might be brought forward.

It had been suggested, said Mr. Maxwell, that the board had decided on a policy of cutting down the pine trees because they were now almost dead. No one could say definitely what was the life of a pinus insignis. There was an impression that it was a very short-lived tree and that, therefore, those in the park were at the end of their lives. This was far from being the case. Perhaps they had reached the age of maturity, but the age or maturity was not the age of death. Further, the age of maturity in a tree depended on many things, such as location and quality of the soil.

As a forester, Mr. Maxwell appealed to the board, to retain the trees because they were of unique interest from a forestry point of view. New Zealand was destined to be the forest of the Empire and pinus insignis was a most important wood. Data concerning these trees would be very valuable in the future, and on no account should any trees be cut, excepting where it was necessary to safeguard the remainder. Referring again to the age of maturity in pine trees. Mr. Maxwell said that after fifty-five years of vigorous growth one tree in the park was still growing. This knowledge was of immense value from a forestry point of view.

A MAGNIFICENT SPECIMEN.

Some fourteen years ago when a British trade delegation visited New Plymouth, he mentioned the fact that there was a pinus insignis tree nearly four feet in diameter in the park, said Mr. Maxwell. Members of the delegation would not believe him until they saw the tree. To-day this same tree was four feet eleven inches in diameter. It was still growing after fifty years. Further, many of the stumps of trees recently cut down showed that the trees were still growing at the time they were felled. The pines in the park were nowhere near at the end of their lives, and Mr. Maxwell appealed to the board not to go about a system of cutting down the trees. When the trees had been thinned out as at present there was plenty of room for undergrowth. In contrast to others, practically all native trees grew well under pines, and so the board need not sacrifice its native plants.

HORRIFIED AT PRESENT CONDITION.

For his own feelings, he was horrified to see the present condition of things, continued the speaker. The line had been very much overstepped in the removal of these great trees, especially in some portions. Some of the pinus insignis in the park were growing to 160 and 170 feet in height. The gentle hills and valleys of the park were wonderfully accentuated by these mighty trees

growing on them. The park was a forest only a minute away from the city.

Visitors, referring to this tree felling, had asked of the park, "Why spoil it?" Flower or botanical gardens could be found anywhere, but there was only one Pukekura Park in the world. The park had been over fifty years in growing its beautiful pine trees, and it would take another fifty years before the pohutukawas and other native trees grew to replace them—and even then the new trees would not be half the height of the old ones. Mr. Maxwell suggested planting *pinus insignis* to replace the trees cut down since they were the most quickly growing of all trees.

At the conclusion of his remarks questions were put to Mr. Maxwell by members of the board and they were satisfactorily answered.

AIMS OF THE BOARD.

"While I have listened with great interest to the remarks made by members of the deputation, it has come as a surprise, not to say shock, to me that it has been thought the board intends to cut down all pine trees in the park. We love the pines just as much as you do, and we aim to make Pukekura Park the best in New Zealand—if it is not already so," said the chairman, Mr. F. Amoore, in replying to the deputation. It would indeed be a bold, bad man, he continued, who would cut down, for instance, that beautiful avenue of trees from the band rotunda to the lower end of Victoria Road. The deputation could rest assured that the question of felling any pine trees would receive the board's fullest consideration before being carried into effect, and that the arguments, put forward by the speakers would also be considered carefully.

Mr. Fraser thanked the board for receiving the deputation and expressed the hope that the board's love for the pine trees would be shown in "a little mercy for the condemned." The deputation then withdrew.

TH, OCTOBER 1, 1931 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING TREE FELLING CONTROVERSY THE PARK BOARD'S POLICY JUDICIOUS PLANTING, NOT CUTTING

Anonymous Criticism Deemed Unjust Deputation's Interest Commended

A definite expression of their policy, framed in several concise resolutions that are calculated to clear up the tree felling controversy, as well as replying satisfactorily to the requests of the deputation that waited upon them on September 8 and to subsequent correspondence in the press, was made by a special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Wednesday evening. The resolutions stated (1) that the board have no intention, and never have had any intention, of removing all the *pinus insignis*; (2) that their intention, at their discretion and after full consideration of each case, is to remove any dangerous, dead, dying or redundant trees, whether native or exotic; (3) while not excluding exotic flora, the board intend to make Pukekura Park a standard collection of

native flora; (4) regarding the filling of the gaps created by felling trees below the superintendent's residence, the board are satisfied that the planting authorised, when deciding to fell the trees, with quick growing and dense native flora, is in the best interests of the park, and that within a very short period the gaps apparent to-day will be densely filled.

Concerning the deputation's requests as to replanting as soon as possible with *pinus insignis* such areas on boundaries or the tops of ridges as will restore and preserve background and shelter, and filling up other gaps and holes, these were referred to the superintendent for a report as to suitable kinds of trees. Notice was also given to rescind a resolution passed at a previous meeting affecting the trees on the eastern side.

In passing the resolutions unanimously, the board commended the interest shown by the strong and representative deputation, welcomed any such constructive criticism, and described as unfair and unjust certain other criticism made without a full knowledge of the position and at times anonymously. The meeting followed an inspection of the park and consideration of the superintendent's (Mr. T. Horton's) report, as well as one from Mr. V. C. Davies, placed before the board as supplementary to the deputation. Members expressed the desire that both reports and the meeting's proceedings should be reported in full.

A DEFINITE AIM COLLECTION OF NATIVE FLORA EXOTICS NOT EXCLUDED. REASONS FOR ACTIONS TAKEN.

There were present at the meeting Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), R. C. Hughes, J. McLeod, R. W. Tate, H. V. S. Griffiths, C. E. Bellringer, F. Parker, W. F. Short, H. Dempsey, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent). An apology for absence was received from Mr. G. M. Spence.

Referring to the first question of the deputation—to consider the policy as explained by the board's secretary in the *Taranaki Herald* of August 21—Mr. Tate said that they had no intention, and never had had any intention, of removing all the *pinus insignis* in the park and he had put that in the form of a resolution.

Mr. Bellringer: The policy had been to take down as few trees as possible. Often before the board had had discussions on the question, and had carried resolutions, over a minority in opposition, against cutting trees. None had been felled without the board first visiting the park and inspecting the trees marked.

If there was an idea among the community that the board was taking down all the *pinus insignis*, why not remove the idea, said Mr. Tate. He intended to do that in the terms of his resolution.

Mr. Bellringer: "I would like to see it more definite—that we never intended to remove any number of *pinus insignis*."

Mr. Hughes considered the board was dealing with such an important deputation, the replies to which involved

such wide topics, that it was impossible to deal fully with the matter at the meeting. He suggested adjourning consideration till the next meeting, so that in the meantime some definite ideas on the question might be formulated, especially in reference to Miss C. A. Douglas' letter. He also proposed that no more trees be cut down except those expressly indicated by the superintendent and inspected by the board. The representative nature of the deputation, and the amount of subsequent correspondence showed the concern felt by the people for the park. He could understand that anyone visiting the park would be concerned about some of the breaks on the skyline and hill-tops. It was better to allay the public's anxiety by following the line suggested.

The Chairman: "This is a special meeting to deal with the matter."

Responsibility Accepted.

The resolution of Mr. Tate was seconded by Mr. McLeod, who said he was prepared to take full responsibility with the other members for anything the board had done. It was just as well the matter had come out fully now, so that a complete understanding could be reached on all sides. No matter if the reporter, in writing the interview that led to the controversy, had unintentionally misinterpreted what had been said, he had made a good story. It had never been the intention or the board to denude the park of pine trees, except those dying or dangerous, and replacements should be with pines. The board's decision apparently had to be on whether the replacements would be with *pinus insignis* or native trees. Concerning the gaps mentioned, some of these had been apparent for several years, and those acquainted with the park as intimately as the board members, knew how and why they had come about. Certain of the gaps were due to the removal of sycamores, an action deemed essential for the growth of other trees. But lately, since the controversy, there had been a close scrutiny, under which these things were only just seen. Whether or not the Board was wrong in taking those trees cut, he was not prepared to say.

In any stage of growth there must be a transition period. That was happening now. Whatever the critics said, he felt that the knowledge of the board was greater than theirs. The trees had been removed with the object of benefiting those coming on. That constituted the transition. Those who were criticising were passing judgment after the trees were down, and not before they were felled. A certain section seemed to feel that replacement should be with trees of a particular variety. In that respect there seemed to be overlooked the planting already done by the board and steadily going on. For instance, 1000 native trees were planted this year alone. With these coming on the transition period would be passed in about five years, and the gaps to which exception was taken would be filled up.

Growth in 25 Years.

Concerning Mr. Davies' suggestion that some of the higher places might be planted with native trees, Mr. McLeod

said he himself had not sufficient knowledge on the point to give an opinion. He would not like to see any more pines on the eastern side, unless they were kept low down. Experience had shown that they were a bug-bear to the sportsground there with dampness and shadow. The question was whether there should be planted on the apexes of the hills some species of pine. Reference to photographs of the park in 1904 showed that it was a very different place then to now. There was not then the density and growth apparent now. It was very thin. The growth had been in the last 25 years. There was no doubt but that that was the particular charm and beauty of the park. It might be policy to meet part of the deputation's requests by planting the apexes of the hills with pines. Whatever happened it should be clearly stated to the public, some of whom had had a good cut at the board on wrong premises, that it had not been the board's intention to denude the park.

In supporting what had been said, Mr. Bellringer remarked that it was unfortunate that what had been given out as the policy of the board was not the policy. He did not mind how much criticism there was, and he was glad to see the deputation come along. But some of the criticism was unfair and unjust. He had no idea the impression had been gained that the press was to be excluded from the meeting, and that it was to be made secret. If criticism helped the board to make the park better, then they would fall in with it. It seemed that the criticism started with the trees about the superintendent's house. If they had not been taken down and a clearing made so as to give the native trees a chance to come on, nothing would have been heard. He was sure that the growth would soon cover up the scars.

NATURE DOING ITS WORK.

As for the pine trees that had been taken down there, two of them were dead, and were a danger to the house. Members of the board had satisfied themselves on that point. Personally, had no particular love for *pinus insignis*. They were a mournful kind of tree. However, they acted as a foil, and with their darker foliage made a background for the brighter native trees.

When the board had done certain clearing on Cannon Hill, in the time that Mr. Smith had charge of the park, there was criticism and opposition. Would anyone say to-day that the spot was not improved? with its magnificent growth of tree ferns backed by the pines. It was never the intention of the board to cut the pines that formed the belt on the eastern side, on Cannon Hill, nor the fine avenue at the Carrington Road entrance. But Nature was doing its work, despite all the board could do to save the trees, and it seemed certain that in five years' time some of them would be dead. Mr. E. Maxwell had been careful to say that under favourable circumstances the trees might exist a certain period—say 40 years. The board wanted something to replace those that were nearing the end of their life. Experienced bushmen, who knew all about handling, cutting and trimming trees, had said they would not

undertake the work on some of them, because of danger.

Stating that he did not know if the board had a really defined policy, Mr. Short considered that pines should be replaced before they fell down. He agreed with Mr. McLeod that height and shelter should be kept. Until the trees were dead or dangerous, he advocated leaving them till the last moment. He did not think the deputation suggested that the board were taking all the pines down.

Spirit of Co-operation.

Mr. Stainton associated himself with the remarks of Messrs. McLeod and Bellringer. Referring to records of the board dating back to 1906, he said that it would seem from reading them that the same board was in office all the time, the policy followed having been so consistent. For instance, in the minutes of 1906 meeting there was shown decisions of the board to remove pines here and there where essential and plant with native trees.

He felt that the manner in which the deputation had met the board was to be highly commended. They had come in a spirit of co-operation and in the best interests. Some people without a full knowledge of the facts, however, had been saying things which had been going into print. With one or two exceptions, these were written over a *nom-de-plume*. Little attention need be paid to the anonymous critics. No tree had been taken out of the park without full inspection and consideration. Where there had been replanting the members of the board and the public had agreed that it had redounded to the credit of the park, and would be a lasting benefit to the town.

Mr. Griffiths supported the resolution as a definite pronouncement of policy that the board was not removing any *pinus insignis* needlessly. They should thank the deputation for the interest shown, and express the hope that criticism would always be constructive. There was no doubt that there were gaps that they would like to see filled up. In justice to the deputation, any correspondence that had appeared under a *nom-de-plume* should be dissociated from their names. He felt that the resolution would disabuse the impression which seemed to have gained currency that the policy was to remove *pinus insignis*, and he wished to accept his share of the responsibility for taking down any of the pines.

Though he voted for felling some of those on the western slope, he had to confess that afterwards he was astonished to see the gap that was made. He was sure it was bigger than was anticipated. What had been done could not be undone. It was for the board to fill in the spaces with some form of trees, such as pines, and so make a background for the magnificent foreground presented by the native flora. When the policy was announced he felt that much of the criticism would die down. Judicious planting should be done to replace the heavy skyline, fill up the breaks, and exclude the wind which was so disturbing to the interior. He urged that all precaution should be taken with

the trimming of limbs, so that the life of the trees would not be endangered.

No Felling Without Reason.

When he looked at the opening near the superintendent's house the other day he was somewhat of the mind of the deputation, said Mr. Hughes. There was a surprising gap there.

Mr. Amore: If the resolution went out that should allay fears. Someone had told him that the board was going to cut down all the trees on the southern side of the sportsground, and it was termed ruthless slaughter. Nothing of the sort. It had never been the intention to chop down all the pine trees, and it never would be. There was never a tree taken down without a good and sufficient reason.

Mr. Dempsey said it seemed to him that the deputation was under the wrong impression that all the pine trees were to go.

Mr. Tate said that his idea was to make several general policy resolutions, showing what the board were not going to do, what they were going to do, and their future policy. Following his first resolution, he then moved:—

The Intention of the board at their discretion and after full consideration of each case, is to remove any dangerous, dead, dying or redundant trees, whether native or exotic.

Mr. McLeod seconded the resolution.

That, while not excluding exotic flora, the board intend to make Pukekura Park a standard collection of native flora.

Mr. Short seconded the resolution.

Standard Collection.

Mr. Tate pointed out the success of the fernery. People came great distances to see it, and botanists and students from Otago University, because, with one or two exceptions, it was a standard collection of New Zealand ferns. If the park were made a standard collection of native flora, it would become valuable in the same way as the fernery. It was quite right, however, that there should be exotic plants and trees, such as the *pinus insignis*, but the main idea underlying the board's policy would be to make it a standard collection of native flora. In 50 or 100 Years' time it would be a unique collection.

Mr. McLeod: "I shall support that because I feel it is the resolution we want. There is an impression that the park should be reserved as a pine park. That is a clear definition or policy."

Mr. Bellringer: "That is our definite aim. I feel that we should do everything we can, while not being seized with the idea of native trees to the exclusion of exotic plants. Despite the criticism, I have heard a great many people congratulate the board, feeling that we are doing the right thing with the native flora."

Mr. Hughes suggested that until next autumn no trees except those definitely indicated and considered should be cut down.

It was pointed out that a resolution on this line had already been carried at the last meeting.

Trees With Longer Life.

Mr. Tate then proposed another resolution, "That the board does not

intend to plant pinus insignis except as temporary shelter."

In seconding, Mr. McLeod said that one reason given in favour of the pine was that it was an object tree for the forester. With the amount of afforestation going on there was ample means for the forester to gain all the knowledge he wanted.

Mr. Griffiths: "I am not so satisfied on this point. I feel that the park has been noted not only by people from all over the Dominion, but by visitors from all parts of the world. These pines are giving an appearance of magnificent height. Why change them?"

Mr. McLeod: "For something better." While not agreeing that there should be a pine plantation, Mr. Griffiths held that the pines had given protection and had proved satisfactory, and he could not see why they should be changed.

They had come to a state where they were not satisfactory, said Mr. Stainton. With height and dignity as necessary qualities, trees might be found giving the same result with greater longevity. With a short life the pinus insignis was going to give the same trouble to the coming generation as was experienced now. A definite decision might be come to later after all possible data on the subject had been gathered, and full consideration given it.

PINE NOT IDEAL TREE.

Mr. Bellringer said that he had inspected closely many pines, and he had noticed that they began to die from the bottom, leaving a gap between the lower branches and the ground. The board had only been trying to fill up these gaps underneath. It was quite clear to him that the pinus insignis was not the ideal tree. He had heard regret expressed that a better tree than the pinus insignis had not been planted. It seemed that regard had been shown to the sense of height created by the pine, rather than the shelter it afforded. Nature had made a problem for the board.

Mr. Hughes pointed out that by passing the resolution the board were making a definite policy to which they were tying themselves.

Mr. McLeod: Miss Douglas had asked if the board were going to replace the fallen trees with pinus insignis, and this was the reply.

Mr. Griffiths: "I feel that we should not give reply on this point to-night. The board should get more information on the subject before giving a definite answer."

The chairman agreed with the previous speaker. The matter might be held over till the superintendent brought down a report as to what was the most suitable tree for the purpose. He might indicate varieties that would live longer than the pine and grow higher at nearly the same rate.

Suitability of Trees.

Mr. Tate withdrew this last resolution and replaced it with one referring the matter of questions three and six of the deputation, as stated by Miss Douglas, to the superintendent for an indication as to which trees were suitable.

The questions were:—

(3), To replant as soon as possible with pinus insignis such areas on boundaries or the tops of ridges as will restore and preserve background and shelter for native trees, shrubs and ferns on the slopes of the hills and in the valleys and dells below.

(6) To note especially the many gaps and holes that have appeared in the splendid belts of trees formerly surrounding the park and crowning the ridges, belts now rapidly becoming scanty and thin. These gaps and holes have been caused by the felling of trees and shrubs of different species and of varying heights and density. Through them are now to be seen very many buildings outside the park boundaries, thus destroying that sense of seclusion that has played so great a part in the attraction of the park. The board is asked to refill up these gaps and holes as fast as possible and thus restore to the park some of its lost charm.

Mr. Bellringer expressed definite opposition to the wholesale planting of pines insignis.

Mr. Griffiths agreed, but felt that the board should fill gaps with, if possible, some better tree. But he did not want it to go out that the board would not plant pinus insignis except as temporary shelter.

The resolution as amended was carried.

Notice of Motion.

Concerning question four—to rescind the resolution by which the board decided to fell the pines on the ridge above the eastern terrace of the sports ground, and to replant with pinus insignis the northern slopes of this terrace—Mr. Griffiths gave notice to move that the resolution previously passed referring to the pines on the eastern side be rescinded.

Regarding the slope below the superintendent's house, the trees now planted numbered 143, said Mr. McLeod. On his motion the following resolution was carried: -

Regarding the filling of the gaps created by felling trees below the superintendent's residence, the board is satisfied that the replanting authorised, when deciding to fell the trees, with quick growing and dense native flora, is in the best interests of the park and that within a very short period the gaps apparent to-day will be densely filled.

The deputation questions on this point were: -

To replant with quickly-growing trees slope below the superintendent's residence, so that it may no longer be seen from inside the park, and to replant, areas to the north and north-east of the residence with the definite object of restoring those lines of contour, the loss of which is so markedly and unpleasantly noticeable from any points within the park.

The last resolution, in the name of Mr. Tate, seconded by Mr. McLeod, was "that the press be requested to publish Mr. Horton's report on the trees of the park, and also the list of 143 trees planted on the slope below Mr. Horton's house."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

PINUS INSIGNIS DECAYING

REVIEW OF THE TREES.

The report of the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) was presented as follows:-

On Cannon Hill there are 21 pines, including the very large tree below the path on the western side of the hill. One of these is poor and scrubby and should be removed. Quite a lot of dead and rotten branches want removing. One Wellingtonia Gigantea has started to die at the top.

At the back of the sportsground pavilion there is one pinus torreyana. This is a fine specimen, but requires some lower branches removed.

Hillside, back of western terrace and behind reporters' stand, one pinus insignis. This is a large, noble, spreading tree, isolated from all other large trees, but has nothing growing under the spreading limbs. On the grass plot near the rose bed there is a pinus insignis. This is a large tree, with ugly bole, the result of branches being allowed to grow for many years and ultimately being removed. In the area near the swings there are six cupressus macrocarpa. These are large, well-grown trees, but one is dead and one is dying. There are two large pines which have a great many dead and dying branches, and one cupressus lawsoniana, a fine healthy tree.

In the gully near the dump at the back of Mr. Spence's house are two pinus torreyana, beautiful specimens which must be preserved.

On the hillside to the right of the path from the Carrington Road entrance to the hill-top by the house are three pines, one macrocarpa and two cryptonaria japonica, and one eucalyptus globulus. There are many dead limbs on these trees, and the pines are ugly.

Carrington Road Entrance.

To the left side of the Carrington Road path from the entrance gate there are 17 pines and one macrocarpa. Amongst this lot are several of the finest boled trees in the park, the result of growing in an ideal situation and good soil. On the right side of the Carrington path are 11 pines and a few sycamores, oaks and other deciduous trees. The pines are mostly very tall, beautiful trees. Those that have been trimmed show remarkable improvement on those not trimmed.

On the western side of the upper lake and both sides of the Vogeltown walk, there are 62 pines and 16 macrocarpas. Four of these are poorly grown and are either dead or dying. A few of the pines nearest the main path have been trimmed, but the others have many dead and dying branches. Behind these trees on the western side next to the tennis courts and croquet greens 120 native trees are growing, but whether these will be sufficient to provide a satisfactory shelter belt is problematical.

The enclosure south of the house and above the glow-worm caves has 15 pines and eight macrocarpa. One tree in this area recently came down in a gale. This tree was very much decayed. Behind

these trees and on the north boundary of the croquet greens, pohutukawas have been planted and are doing well.

Brooklands Road Corner.

At the Brooklands Road corner are seven pines, one macrocarpa and one poplar. Two of the pines are dying. At the Brooklands gate are two pines. Half of the largest tree has been blown down and is now being cut up for firewood. Next to the boundary of Newton King's one pine is growing, but more than half has been broken off with gales, and what is left is ugly and of bad shape, and serves no useful purpose. It should be removed.

On the left side of the upper lake, hillside and top, 98 pines and macrocarpa are growing. In this area were several half-dead, poorly grown trees, which you authorised me to remove. Some have been cut out this winter, but there are three or four yet to be removed. Most of these trees, although looking well in a block from a distance, are, on close inspection, in a very bad way. The number of dead, dying and rotten branches make them a positive nuisance and danger for a public park, and it is surprising to see that someone has not been hurt by falling branches. Quite a lot of trees in this block have been trimmed recently, and I am anxious to continue this work as suitable men and opportunity offer.

On the right side of the racecourse are 32 pines and six poplars, and a few other exotic trees. Two pines are in a dying condition. My remarks on the last block will apply to this area as well. Back of the racecourse caretaker's house is a small group of sycamore, poplars, gums, etc. The gums are ragged, ugly and useless. On the hill beyond the fernery at the upper end of the John Street walk nine pines are growing, and these are a very fine breakwind for south-easterlies and look healthy and well, but a close-up inspection reveals many dead and dying branches. On the hill at the back of the southern terrace and to the left of the John Street walk are 13 pines, two macrocarpa and one pinus torreyana. Further on, on the same hill, are 14 macrocarpa (four dying), two pines and one arancaria excelsa. An assortment of 200 native trees, principally pohutukawa, has been planted on the south side, and these will ultimately provide excellent shelter from south and south-west winds.

Clearing Up Rubbish.

On the south-east end of the sportsground are three pines and three gums. One of these is dead, the other useless.

In the gully to the south-east, leading out of the sportsground, are four pines, one macrocarpa and several gums. The gums are half dead and as they have grown above the foliage of surrounding trees look bad and should be removed.

On the ridge of the hill above the Fillis Street gully 13 pines and two gums are growing. Near Chaney's there have been planted 180 native trees. There is scope for considerable planting in this vicinity, but, any trees planted cannot be expected to be a very great success whilst the pines are left standing. Hitherto only

rubbish such as gorse, blackberry and seedling sycamores have been growing here, and now all this has been cleared up. This area looks bare and I recommend judicious planting of native trees, suitable for the position, next planting season.

The area on the right side of the lake beyond the big bridge and extending to the Brooklands Road is mostly planted with deciduous trees such as oaks, ash, sycamore, birch, plane and elms. Behind these trees no provision was made for effective shelter, but I have planted a number of pohutukawa and totara trees. The former have been severely cut by frost this winter, and it is problematical if they will do well in this part of the park.

On the hill and slope of the Victoria Road boundary and on the right of the Carrington Road path about 200 native trees have been planted this season. The ridge and highest portion of the face have been planted with pohutukawa, whilst lower down a group of kowhai and tree ferns have been put in. This has always been a very exposed part, westerly winds cutting into the park, and in a few years a very effective breakwind will be provided by these newly-planted trees. From the south end of this new planting there is a single row of pohutukawa trees, which I planted five years ago and which are doing well and run from 6 to 8 feet in height. Inside these trees is a break of black wattles. These are scraggy and poor and I would suggest they be removed and permanent native trees planted in their place.

The Exotic Trees.

It may be of interest to know what exotic trees are growing in the park, and the following is a fairly accurate list: 318 pinus insignis, 35 cupressus macrocarpa, 60 English oaks, 60 sycamore, 18 European silver birch, 12 poplars, 60 Japanese cherries, 150 benthamia fragriera, 5 wellingtonia gigantea, 5 cryptomeria japonica, 30 sequoia sempervirens, 6 cupressus lawsoniana, 10 English ash, cypress of sorts, including guberniana, knightiana, menabiana, and horizontatis, thuja gigantea, alder, plane, copper beech, Oregon pine, evergreen oak, salisburia adiantifolia, scarlet oak, maples, paulonia imperialis, acacias of sorts, English laurel, Canadian catalpa, and several others. These come from many parts of the world and include the leading varieties which are usually collected and planted in public parks. The total number of exotic trees is 997. Disease has killed a number of oak trees and these have been cut down. Sycamores in some portions of the park have become a nuisance, as they seed freely and young trees come up in thousands. These grow so rapidly that it becomes a fight to eradicate them.

Prior to my taking charge thousands of these had taken root and grew in height from 4 feet to 12 feet, necessitating a great deal of labour and expense to grub them out. It has taken years to get rid of them, and thousands more are now coming on. This is one reason why I have advocated the removal of this variety from the gully at the back of the

sportsground. They have encroached on and smothered the growth of native trees. I do not for a moment suggest the removal of all this species, but would confine them to a limited area, such where they are growing on the right side of the lake beyond the bridge.

During my period at the park (over seven years) I have planted about 1200 trees, a great proportion of which are pohutukawa. Some people have asked the reason, and I am pleased to give it here. This is, if not our best native coastal tree, certainly one of the best. Many consider it, one of the world's best ornamental flowering trees. It withstands heavy wind, even gales, is not affected by salt spray, is evergreen, not so subject to disease as many other varieties, is easily controlled, responds readily to treatment, is free flowering and makes an effective breakwind; and, as it is a native, I consider it the most valuable tree to plant on the weather side of any park area which requires shelter and on the hill-tops. The only complaint made against this tree is that it is slow growing. That is quite true, when allowed to grow with grass and rubbish growing all around, as many people do, but with cultivation it is really astonishing how they respond and the wonderful growth they put on. Many of the trees planted in the park have made six feet of growth in five years, and would do even better if we had the labour to dig all the ground, instead of a limited area around each tree. There are trees in New Plymouth that have grown ten feet or more in three or four years.

The Pohutukawa.

For these reasons I have adopted it as the most suitable tree for the purpose for which it has been planted. I think it unfortunate that this tree was not planted on the hill-tops of the park fifty or sixty years ago when the pines were put in. Had this been done there would be today a permanent body of growth on the hill-tops which might have been the special pride of the park and a pleasure to the whole community.

Regarding pines, I feel it is my duty to draw attention to the fact that many of these noble trees are decaying, and I make bold to say that in 25 years not many of these will be living. Out of the 300 odd pinus insignis growing in the park to-day, probably not more than 25 or 30 will live, and these will only exist because they happen to be in particularly suitable positions. During the last five years about twenty or thirty have died or collapsed and others are dying to-day. This applies to pinus insignis and macrocarpa only, not to those noble torreyana, strobies, pinea and a few others. Some of these may live for a long period, being harder than insignis and of slower growth.

I am satisfied that the life of many of the pines would be lengthened if the branches and heavy side limbs were neatly cut away to half-way or two-thirds up the bole of the trees. This work is, generally speaking, dangerous on account of the great height of the trees and the rotten state of the branches, and requires an expert climber and axeman. Such men are difficult to get, and none

has been available amongst the relief workers working here. The permanent staff cannot possibly undertake this work. I estimate that if a suitable man could be engaged the cost would be approximately £40. It would be money well spent, because in addition to increasing the longevity of the trees the danger and menace of falling dead branches would be obviated and the prospect of a better growth of native plants under the trees would be enhanced.

PINE TREES HEALTHY CHARM OF NATURAL BEAUTY

VIEW OF AN EXPERT.

The views of an expert, Mr. V. C. Davies, N.D.H., N.Z., president of the Horticultural Trades' Association, are expressed in the following report which was presented to the Pukekura Park Board at its special meeting on Wednesday evening as supplementary to the deputation of September 8, and in support of the written requests of the deputation.

Pinus Radiata on Hill at Eastern Side of Sportsground. —All pine trees in this area should remain, as their life is good for another 15 to 20 years. The planting of pohutukawa extensively on the crest of the hill in front of the present pine trees has already been done and is most desirable. Recommendations: Plant at once a row of sturdy *pinus radiata*, eight feet apart, just below the eastern crest of this hill, and partly under the present pines, which are now very open, thus allowing satisfactory growth of the replanted trees, this line of pines to go from the boundary of the property near Mr. Chaney's to within a chain of Fillis Street, where a shorter forest tree could be used, preferably *cupressus macrocarpa*. As these trees grow the lower branches of the old pines can be gradually removed and eventually the old trunks taken down, as the new ones become ready to take their place. The planting of a new line of trees just over the crest of the hill would give the desired height, would not shade any of the terraces after midday and, combined with a dense frontage of pohutukawa, with its light silvery foliage and crimson flowers, would give a wonderful effect at midsummer when the park attracts most visitors.

Western Side of Sportsground.

Hill on Western Side of Sportsground. —The present large *pinus radiata* should remain, and the lower branches, having already been well limbed up, now permit underplanting. These trees should be good for another ten to fifteen years. Recommendations: Plant an irregular line of about six *Wellingtonia gigantea* trees about a chain down the western side of the hill. When these trees make good the present pines could be removed. Trees planted well down the western side of this hill would not shade the terraces on that area until about 4 p.m., and then only very lightly, and would not affect the playing area, as the variety recommended is of open growth, and would not shade as did the pines planted previously on the crest of this hill. These tall trees would form a

background to the native trees already Planted In this area, and as these mature would make the sportsground appear as a beautiful dell, surrounded on three sides by stately forest trees against the skyline.

Hill on South Side of Sportsground. -

All trees to remain at any cost. Two *macrocarpa* are gradually dying, but will not be dangerous for five or six years. These can be removed gradually, so as to give the other trees chance to fill up. Recommendations: Plant irregularly a limited number of tall, quick-growing evergreen trees in rear of present pines. Continue the under-planting of native trees as at present being done. As trees grow lower branches and dangerous trees can be removed. If any large trees are removed from this hill it will form a funnel and allow the south-east gales to come into the sports area.

VICTORIA ROADSIDE.

Western Side of Park along Victoria Road. —From the Carrington Road entrance to superintendent's residence pohutukawa trees have been planted, which will be very desirable. Further planting of scattered tall evergreen forest trees on the eastern side of the pohutukawa would give desired height as well as protection from westerly wind. The pohutukawas would form the low shelter, and the forest trees the high. From behind the superintendent's residence to entrance at Vogeltown is a part that requires immediate attention, as once the present shelter is removed, either by cutting out of any trees, or by present trees dropping their lower branches, and unless further planting on the western side, and under-planting of pines with suitable trees, which will stand these conditions, this portion of the park will be ruined. Recommendations: Plant at once a line of *pinus radiata* 6ft. apart, right along the western side of present pines within 3ft. of bank, on the side of croquet and tennis greens. Underplant pines with native trees which will grow under these conditions, viz.: *Karo*, *karaka*, *kohekohe*, *tarata*, *mopau*, etc. Most of these can be secured in the park. During the next few weeks plant several lines of *pinus radiata* on the western side of the croquet and tennis greens, fringing this with *cupressus lawsoniana*, so that in 20 to 25 years, when the present pines are past their usefulness, they can be removed gradually by an experienced bushman, who would cut the trees down in sections, doing very little damage to the undergrowth, and leave a solid wall of pines fringed with a belt of native trees, which will protect this very much exposed portion of the park. Remarks: If this area does not get attention soon, the space between the present poor undergrowth and the green bunches of the pines will be so great that a severe draught will be created, and it will be very difficult to establish any trees.

The Vogeltown Entrance.

South and South-western Portion, from Vogeltown Entrance to King's Entrances—As this portion is very exposed all tall trees near the boundary should remain, and further planting of a

single line of rapid growing trees should be undertaken immediately.

Recommendations: Plant upright evergreen quick-growing trees along the boundary, with *cupressus lawsoniana* along the short portion reserved for the view of the mountain. The portion from King's entrance to the stream coming out from King's estate requires planting with *cupressus lawsoniana* for low shelter. This area is already partly prepared for planting, and probably this is contemplated. Remarks: A line of trees as suggested would give height and shelter from the south winds and, being fringed with pohutukawas, totara and kowhai, as at present planted, will give a beautiful effect.

EASTERN SIDE OF LARGE LAKE.

This area is not now used extensively, but in time will become very popular. Recommendations: The planting of tall forest specimen trees, such as *sequoia gigantea*, Norfolk pine, etc., at one to two chains apart and at irregular intervals, would be very effective; the addition of more flowering gums would also put colour into this section. The native bush at the extreme south end to be left in its natural condition, with a little reinforcing of native trees and paths opened up. No tall trees should be cut in this area except where quite dead, or are in a dangerous state. The small dead tree trunk that has blown over appears to have been dead for very many years. The cutting of diseased native shrubs, *griselinia* and *pittosporum* back to a stump so as to rejuvenate is strongly approved.

General Remarks.—This report is not meant to convey the idea that no trees should be cut down or pruned back in the park. Trees that are double-headed should have one portion removed, e.g., the one at King's entrance, a portion of which has fallen some years ago, is now quite safe, and should remain, but any trees that are spoiling better trees, any that are diseased, or any that are dangerous should be removed. Sound trees should not be cut on any account along the western or southern boundaries until the replacements are well advanced. Several *pinus radiata* in the park appear to be unhealthy, the foliage being yellowish. However, close inspection reveals the trouble to be only a seasonable one, and the trees are a mass of young growth and quite healthy. The planting of native trees, especially the rarer varieties, about the inner portions of the park, is highly recommended, and adds enormous value to our park from an outsider's point of view. The flower beds, which are certainly a credit to the superintendent, should be confined to the present area, as the whole charm of the park is its natural beauty, as distinct from any other park in New Zealand.

TH, OCTOBER 2, 1931

TREES IN THE PARK REPLACEMENT OF PINES ON WEST OF LAKE

The park superintendent, Mr. Thomas Horton, F.R.H.S., N.D.H., N.Z.Z., provides the following:—

List of native trees planted and growing on the eastern face of hill in Pukekura Park in front of superintendent's house.

One *Ackama rosaefolia* (Makawaka), one *Alectryon excelsum* (Titoki), one *Aristolelia racemosa* (Makomako), three *Brachyglottis Rangiora* (Rangiora), one *Clianthus puniceus alba*, three *Coprosma baueri* (Taupata), six *Coprosma robusta* (Karamu), two *Cordyline australis* (Cabbage tree), two *Correa alba*, one *Corokia lineata*, one *Corokia buddleoides*, four *Corynocarpus laevigata* (Karaka), one *Dacrydium colensoi* (Silver pine), two *Dacrydium cupressinum* (Rimu), one *Dacrydium intermedium* (Mountain pine), one *Dracophyllum strictum* (Nei-nei), one *Fuchsia excorticata purpurea*, one *Helichrysum glomeratum*, three *Hoheria populnea* (Houhere), three *Leptospermum nicholii*, one *Libocedrus bidurillii* (Pahautea), six *Macropiper excelsum* (Kawakawa), one *Melicytus lanceolatus* (Mahoewhau), one *Melicytus simplex*, one *Melicytus micranthus*, two *Myrtus bullato* (Ramarama), two *Myrtus obcordata* (Rohutu), two *Myrtus obcordata purpurea*, six *Nothopanax arborea* (Five-finger), three *Olearia greyii*, two *Olearia nitida*, one *Olearia haastii*, one *Olearia illicifolia*, two *Olearia oleifolia*, one *Panax davesii*, one *Phebalium nudum* (Mairehau), one *Phyllocladus alpinus* (Toatoa), one *Phyllocladus glaucus*, two *Phyllocladus trichomanoides* (Tanekaha), one *Pisonia brunoniana*, one *Pimelia decubata* (Taranga), one *Pittosporum crassifolium*

(Karo), six *Pittosporum eugenoides* (Tarata), one *Pittosporum dallii*, one *Pittosporum nigrescens*, one *Podocarpus totara*, one *Pomaderris apetala* (Tainui), one *Pomaderris rugosa*, three *Pseudopanax crassifolium* (Lancewood), one *Pseudopanax discolor*, one *Pseudopanax ferox*, one *Pseudopanax lessonii* (Houpara), one *Quintinia serrata* (Tawheowheo), one *Rhopalostylis sapida* (Nikau), two *Senecio greyii*, two *Senecio rotundifolia*, one *Senecio bidwillii*, one *Senecio reniolifolius*, one *Sideroxylon crestata*, one *Senecio buchananii*, one *Meryta sinclairii* (Puka), ten *Sophora tetraptera* (Kowhai), twenty-two *Cyathea medullaris* (Mamaku), six *Dicksonia fibrosa* (Weki-ponga). Total, 146.

The following exotic trees and plants are planted amongst the above: Three *Fagus purpurea* (Copper Beech), one *Waratah*, one *Koebreuteria paniculata*, one *Banksia menziesii*, two *Thuja gigantea*, one *Chamerops excelsa*, one *Musa ensete*, one *Retinospera obtusa*, one *Retinospera crispisii* Aurea..

These make the total 158 trees on this open face, besides a few ornamental and flowering shrubs.

TH, OCTOBER 16, 1931

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes Of Special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board. Present: F. Amoore (Chairman) C. H. Hughes, C. E. Bellringer, G. M. Spence, R. W. Tate, W. F. Short, P. E. Stainton (Hon.

Secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent).

The Chairman explained that the meeting had been called at short notice to consider a very generous offer that had been made by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess of £150 towards furnishing the new tea-kiosk. On the motion of Messrs. Bellringer and Short the gift was accepted with grateful thanks. On the motion of Bellringer and short it was resolved that the board undertake to provide additional amount to the gift of Mrs. Burgess by approximately £50 to complete the furnishings of the tea-kiosk.

Report to Committee re Ladies Rest Room and Bridge: The chairman reported that the committee had decided to recommend that a concrete slab be laid, and some rock work be completed in place of the present bridge near the tea-kiosk. It was resolved that the concrete slab be approved and the rock work be further considered at a later meeting.

As regards the Ladies Rest Room a recommendation that the Committee remove the present tea-kiosk to a site near the present tool shop was approved and the offer of Frank Hartnell to have the work done by Returned Soldiers at an approximate cost of £25 was approved. re Bequests: Estate, W. H. Haddrell and Mrs. Alice Paul. It was resolved that £100 from these two bequests be used as follows meantime:

Firstly: Towards the board's portion of the furnishings of tea-kiosk.

Secondly: Towards the Ladies Rest Room.

Thirdly: Towards alteration of the bridge.

TH, NOVEMBER 11, 1931 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING PINES CONTROVERSY TREES ON EASTERN TERRACE CHARGE OF "WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER."

There was a long and earnest discussion at the Pukekura Park Board meeting on Tuesday evening arising out of a resolution to rescind a previous motion concerning the pine trees on the eastern terrace. The discussion became somewhat general, involving the board's policy, and the mover of the resolution, Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths, "raised his voice against the slaughter of the trees that had been going on." Also, in putting forward the resolution, he said he wanted the ratepayers to know by the voting who of the members were in favour of cutting trees and who were not. Strong exception was taken to this statement by other members of the board, who contended that the policy of the board had never been one of ruthless slaughter, and that the statement by Mr. Griffiths placed them in an entirely false light before the public.

Mr. Griffiths' resolution, notice of which was given at a former meeting, was that the previous resolution of the board to remove the pinus insignis trees on the eastern terrace of the sports ground be rescinded.

The previous resolution read: "That the superintendent be authorised to have the pine trees in question removed as soon as he had suitable trees available to plant out this area."

The trees affected numbered 14.

Mr. Griffiths' resolution was lost, voting being: For: Messrs. H. V. S. Griffiths, R. C., Hughes, W. F. Short. Against: Messrs. R. W. Tate, C. E. Bellringer, F. Parker, H. Dempsey, G. Spence, P. E. Stainton (secretary).

There were also present at the meeting, besides those named, Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman) and T. Horton (superintendent).

A resolution, moved by Mr. Bellringer, was then carried, to the effect that, the superintendent be instructed to take no action in regard to the resolution until the board had considered the report to be submitted to it by the superintendent and had decided upon a definite policy in regard to the planting of the Fillis Street gully.

PETITION PRESENTED.

Prior to the discussion surrounding the resolutions a petition was tabled signed by 643 people, and headed as follows:—

"We wish to enter a protest against the felling of trees in Pukekura Park. We are quite in accord with the views expressed by the members of the deputation who waited on the Park Board on September 8. and wish to join with them in their protest. We would respectfully stress the importance of the statements made by Mr. Maxwell."

Mr. Tate and Mr. Dempsey could see no reason why the petition should not be "received."

Mr. G. M. Spence stated that he had not previously had the chance to express an opinion, having been unavoidably absent from the previous meeting when the matter was considered. It could not be too much stressed that the whole controversy was on a misrepresented point. It had never been the board's policy to do what the deputation contended was the board's policy. He had been on the board many years, and he had never heard a suggestion that there should be cut down any trees but those that absolutely needed felling. Regarding the trees in front of the superintendent's house, they were undoubtedly the bete noire of the controversy. As one of those responsible for the action, he felt that it a decision had to be made again concerning those trees, in the full light of the information afforded he would make the same decision as previously. The board, with a full sense of the responsibility to those who had put the trees in and also to posterity, had not only agreed that they were a menace to the new building to be put up but also prevented the board's policy of having native trees for that area concerned.

He admitted that he did not like the present break, but felt sure that with the assistance of the superintendent they would very soon heal the breach with other trees, which would close up the gap. He could say frankly that it was not a thing of beauty looking over the park with no screen of foliage, but he looked forward to the time when the foliage

would be there. Already the board had done much with native trees. It could do more, and it was hoped that it would. If the board were painting the superintendent's house again he suggested that it be done in brown, with a green roof, which would harmonise more with the surroundings than the present colour scheme. In doing what it had the board was actuated by the best motives in the interest of the park.

DETRIMENTAL TO PARK.

Speaking to his resolution, Mr. Griffiths said that he moved it because he felt that the removal of the belt or trees on the eastern terrace would be detrimental to the park. When the question of removing the trees on the western slope was considered he was present, and he wished to take his full share of the responsibility for the action. But he confessed that directly the trees were down he was horrified to see the scar made, and he was anxious to see that no similar scar was made on the eastern terrace. There was a reason for the removal of the western slope trees, but he could see none to justify the cutting of those on the eastern terrace. Those trees had been under consideration on many occasions, and on many occasions he had opposed their demolition. The resolution that he wished to have rescinded was against the defined policy of the board not to remove any but dying, dead or redundant trees. Not by any stretch of the imagination could he conceive that the trees concerned came under that category.

It would take a few hours to remove those monarchs, but to replace them would take years. To remove them would leave a scar on the board for years to come. It was hoped that for many years they would remain where they were. Let the board's policy be one of construction, not destruction. Let the native trees come up and form a background. He did believe that the felling of the trees at a later date would harm young plants underneath. He felt sure that the taller trees could be felled at any time without damage, even if the board were to use the far brow of the hill. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Short, who said he had always been opposed to the felling of trees.

It had always been his feeling that the axe had been used too extensively, said Mr. R. C. Hughes. They were indebted to the deputation for what they had done. The board could not pay them a greater tribute than to pass the resolution, to show that they were in sympathy with them. As pointed out by Mr. Tate, it had never been intended to cut all the trees, but he had been pained to see tree after tree fall, and was pleased to see that the public was taking notice. He felt that the board had gone too far and that the cutting was a disfigurement.

Considered Premature.

Mr. Tate said that he must vote against the resolution, as he considered it premature. At the last meeting it was resolved that Mr. Horton should present a list of tall-growing trees to replace the pinus insignis. Mr. Horton had not yet had time to present that report. The resolution did not conflict with what had

previously been done. To decide whether the eastern height was to be crowned with tall trees was a matter for great consideration, as it might be better to top the ridge with soft growing trees. It would not be right to call those on the eastern terrace majestic monarchs; they were a very scrubby lot. When tall trees were put in they should be ones of a long life and not a comparatively short one. If the trees planted had been long lived, the present problem would not have arisen. He suggested that the resolution was premature, and it was a pity to have it force the board to a decision when the time was not opportune.

As for cutting down those trees eventually without harming growth underneath, it was like Shylock trying to take his pound of flesh without spilling a drop of blood. He suggested that before the resolution be voted on and the board burn its ships, the board decide what it should do, or could do, regarding the eastern terrace; in other words, defer the resolution to a later meeting.

Mr. Stainton said that the decision to cut the trees was arrived at when it was decided that to leave them would damage those beneath. He voted for their removal because on the information available and from personal observation he was satisfied that to leave them would be detrimental. But if he could be satisfied that the trees could eventually be removed without damage, and the area entailed could be planted without danger, then he could see no reason why the trees should not remain. The matter was left entirely to the superintendent, who had indicated that it would be next autumn before he could be ready with hardy plants to replace them. He felt sure that no member of the board would have voted for the trees' removal if he were convinced that the board's planting policy would not be interfered with.

No Danger in Falling.

Mr. Short considered that the trees could be felled without damage to smaller growth.

Mr. Hughes pointed out the opinion of an authority (Mr. E. Maxwell) that the pinus insignis was not such a short-lived tree as was supposed.

There were two reasons why it was decided to fell the trees, said Mr. Parker, the planting of the Fillis Street gully and the fact that the lower growth of the pines was dead.

Mr. Spence associated himself with the remarks of Mr. Tate, and favoured the deferring of consideration till a decision was made. If the trees standing were of long life, if native trees had to be planted on the slopes, and the pines had to be felled in 20 to 25 years, he could not conceive of them falling without doing damage, thus undoing the board's work. Exception must be taken to Mr. Griffiths' description. They were closely examined and many of them were dead, or had reached their allotted span. Though he did not like denuding the hill, he felt that the present board must face the task, or some later board would have to.

He did not agree that there would be a luxuriant growth in the shadow of the

pinus. As yet the board had not decided what trees were to be planted there. Until the superintendent's report was considered the board could make no resolution which would lock the door, as it were, on its action.

It was pointed out by Mr. Hughes that there had been no question previously of damage through falling trees. He considered that the trees could be cut at any time without damage.

There was nothing in the previous, resolution stating when the trees were to be cut down, said Mr. Dempsey. He agreed that consideration should be deferred.

The chairman agreed entirely with Mr. Tate. He thought that the mover of the resolution would be well advised to withdraw it temporarily, as there was no point in committing themselves at present, when it had not been decided what was to be done in Fillis Street gully.

Resolution Clear.

Mr. Bellringer contended that the previous resolution was clear. It stated that the superintendent should fell the trees directly he had suitable trees to replace them, which was in the following autumn. At first it was decided to fell the trees on the eastern terrace straight away; then, on returning to the sportsground and viewing the trees from there, the superintendent stated that he did not have trees ready on hand to plant in the pines' place. In the speaker's opinion pines were useless for shelter, they were not very beautiful, and they were certainly not of long life. Viewing them on a skyline from a distance helped a bit. He agreed that it would not be possible to fall the pines without injury to growth beneath. He did not wish to offend those people who placed great value on the pines, which was probably out of sentiment though perfectly sincere.

Mr. Stainton suggested that the difficulty might be overcome by the resolution before the meeting being made to read that the trees be not removed till the matter was further considered by the board.

The suggestion, was not adopted.

Replying to the statement by Mr. Tate that the resolution to rescind was premature, Mr. Griffiths said that the resolution was as clear as daylight—the trees were condemned to death, and the superintendent could put the axe into them to-morrow morning if he wished to. He considered that the board had definitely decided to fall the trees, and that was wrong. The resolution should be rescinded and then the board should make its decision. He, for one, would raise his voice against the slaughter of the trees that had been going on.

As for felling the trees without damage, that could be done. In the forest where trees were 13 feet apart alternate ones were taken out after ten years growth, one after the other, without any damage. He was convinced from his own observation and expert opinion that the pines could be felled without injury. He did not intend for one moment to withdraw the resolution. It was admitted that there was one point in favour of

falling the trees: the draught caused underneath by their presence. But surely that was not an insuperable difficulty.

ANOTHER RESOLUTION.

Mr. Bellringer said that if the resolution were lost he was prepared to move one that the superintendent be instructed to take no action regarding the trees till a definite decision was made regarding the Fillis Street gully.

Mr. Griffith: "I want to know definitely who are in favour of cutting trees and who are not. I want the ratepayers to know by the voting who are in favour of wholesale slaughter and who are not."

Mr. Spence: I feel that is very wrong of Mr. Griffiths. He is putting the board in a raise light. I am opposed to it.

The chairman: It is a very wrong thing to say. There has been no wholesale slaughter in the park, and as for what felling there has been, you (Mr. Griffiths) have been responsible as much as anyone else.

Mr. Griffiths: There were numerous more trees cut down than were authorised. There had been limbing going on day by day.

Messrs. Spence and Tate: That is not the question.

Mr. Spence: Where are the trees cut down? Where is this wholesale slaughter? Personally I resent the position which these remarks place us by their general statement.

Mr. Griffiths said that on the western slope there were scores of stumps covered with litter where trees had been cut out.

Mr. Spence objected to the remarks being made public when they referred to matters that he, for one, was not aware of.

Mr. Short: Do not the deputation and the petition indicate that too many trees are being cut down?

Mr. Tate contended that no more cutting than was authorised had been done. It seemed to be alleged that the superintendent had exceeded his duties, which was a very unfair thing.

Mr. Dempsey: I am in the park as much as anyone, and I do not see any slaughter going on.

The resolution was then put and lost. In putting his resolution Mr. Bellringer resented the suggestion that there was wholesale slaughter. To say that scores of trees had been cut down was wrong. The matter called for careful consideration from the standpoint of those who had sent in the petition.

Mr. Spence seconded the resolution, and said that the deputation was actuated by the most lofty motives. Because of the fourteen trees which were the subject of the resolution the board had been charged with wholesale slaughter. It had come under the castigations through misrepresentation of the position, and he regretted the sentiments that had been expressed at the board table in that respect. Mr. Bellringer's resolution was a very proper one.

Mr. Tate: It seems that the misunderstanding has not only extended to the public, but to members of the board.

The resolution was carried.

It was decided to defer consideration of the superintendent's report owing to the lateness of the hour.

DEPUTATION'S LETTER.

A letter from the deputation that waited on the board acknowledged the receipt of a copy of the resolutions passed by the board at its meeting of September 30, in answer to the requests of the deputation, and thanked the board for the time and care given by it in considering the deputation's requests.

"After carefully reading the reports of this last meeting in both the local papers," continued the letter. "we feel it necessary to say that the deputation has not asked for the wholesale planting of pinus insignis, nor has it the impression that Pukekura Park should be reserved as a pine park. The deputation's requests Nos. 2 and 3 made this clear, we think.

"We would again draw attention to request No. 6 (referred with request No. 3 to the superintendent). The gaps and holes mentioned had been caused by the removal of trees and shrubs of different species and of varying heights and density. Nothing was further from the thoughts of the deputation than that all these gaps and holes either should, or could, be filled in with pinus insignis alone.

In reviewing the list of native and exotic trees and shrubs planted below the superintendent's house, the board is asked to consider the following facts supplied by Mr. Victor Davies. N.D.H., N.Z.:

"(1) Trees grown under open conditions on a hillside, such as those below the superintendent's house, do not grow so quickly or so high as those grown under natural forest conditions.

"(2) Of the 146 native trees in the list there is but one (the rimu) which, grown under open conditions at maturity would be 50 feet high. Ten others (one Titoki, four karaka, one nikau, one totara, two tanekaha, and one pahautea) would range from 30 feet to 35 feet. The other 135 in the list would at maturity, range from four feet to 25 feet. In fifteen years-time the tallest, the rimu, would be approximately 30 feet.

"(3) Of the twelve exotic trees in the list there are five which, grown under open conditions, would reach the height of 50 feet at maturity (three copper-beech and two Thuja gigantea). In fifteen years they would be approximately 25 feet.

"The board is asked to compare the possible heights and the positions of these trees with those that have been removed. We cannot feel that the gap which allows the superintendent's house and outbuildings to be seen from within the park is likely to be filled within a very short period. (See board's resolution No. 6, dealing with this)."

TH, NOVEMBER 14, 1931 PUKEKURA PARK KIOSK OPENING THIS AFTERNOON CHARMING SETTING FOR CEREMONY

The new tea kiosk in Pukekura Park, the gift to the town of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess, was officially handed over this afternoon and opened by the donors in the presence of a very large and representative gathering. On behalf of the town, the Mayor (Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths) accepted the gift, and the chairman of the Park Board (Mr. F. Amoores) welcomed the guests.

It was a very bright and cheerful ceremony, in keeping with the glorious weather, and was the more engaging because of the charming setting. A better day could not have been chosen for the opening. Reference was made by the speakers to the great generosity of the donors, the great work they had done for the town, the appreciation felt locally for their services, and to the anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Burgess' golden wedding, which is to be celebrated to-morrow. Following the opening, Mr. and Mrs. Burgess were the guests of honour of the Park Board at afternoon tea. The many guests included ex-members of the board.

Although it may have been difficult, during the early stages of its construction, for the general public to realise what the new kiosk would look like upon completion, nobody can now doubt that it is indeed an asset both to the park and to the town generally and a credit to its generous donors. Although the newness has not yet had time to disappear, its simple and effective lines and colours harmonise already with the surroundings. The building reminds one forcibly of similar types seen in public gardens in England. A local example is the kiosk in the Auckland Domain.

Its rough plastered walls, brown tiled roof, show window, and general outline give it that dignity and repose characteristic of the real English type of building, while its practical window treatment lends it that dainty touch associated with the particular class of building to which it belongs. The view of the building from across the lake is charming, and one can easily imagine the effect it will give in the evening with the reflection of its lit-up windows on the water.

The entrance porch, with its quaint old English sign over, and the sweetshop and show-window, face the two main approaches from the park entrance gates. The tearoom itself is tastefully finished, the panelled walls, shaded plaster ceilings, and waxed floor giving an Old World and restful feeling. Plenty of window space is provided, through which views of the lake and mountain can be seen, and three double casement doors open out on to a paved terrace overlooking the lake. The kitchen replete with every convenience and is all-electric. Its green and cream colour scheme very effective. A rest-room and a store are also included in the building.

G. M. Spence resigned from the committee because he was leaving town and his place was filled by Victor Davies, owner of Duncan and Davies nursery.

The Girl Guides asked permission to plant twenty-one trees in the park to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the Girl Guide movement. The request was granted and on May 27 they planted twenty-two, mainly native trees near where the old curators house had stood. Why they planted twenty-two is not clear.

There were some interesting plantings during the year. Forty king ferns were planted in the gully at the back of the sportsground, this is the gully called King Fern Gully today.

On the brow of the hill above the rhododendrons and azaleas (Stainton Dell), 100 totaras, 86 coprosma and 15 assorted native trees were planted.

Forty extra pohutukawas were planted on the hill at the eastern side of the sports ground. White pines and King ferns were planted in the low, damp part of the gully (King Fern Gully) running south-east from the sports ground, and quite a number of other assorted native trees planted on the higher slopes in the same area.

Plant Donations Included:

Messrs. Duncan and Davies; Anderson and Sons, of Napier; Mr. J. Wheeler and Mr. Just, of Palmerston North; Mr. C. S. Sanders, rhododendrons.

THE BIRD-CATCHING TREE

THOMAS HORTON (*Nelson Evening Mail*, September 8, 1932)

New Plymouth's by now far-famed "bird-catching" tree is not as bad as has been suggested by some people according to T. Horton, superintendent of Pukekura Park. The tree which raised the controversy grows in a Vogelstown garden (states the "News").

The para-para, or pisonia brunoniana, was one of the three large-leaved trees of New Zealand that by their foliage suggested a tropical origin, the others being *Meryta sinclairii* and *Entelea arborescens*. These three species are of intense interest to botanists and horticulturists all over the world, and since an article appeared in the press some weeks ago on the para-para, scores of letters, said Mr Horton, had been received at New Plymouth from naturalist, bird-lovers, gardeners, wheatgrowers and societies and associations, some wanting seed and others protesting strongly against any cultivation.

The tree was a native of New Zealand, also of New South Wales, Queensland, and the Kermadec Islands. It was to be found near Whangarei, Ngunguru, Great and Little Barrier Islands, Cabbage Bay and East Coast. It was a coastal tree and would not withstand many degrees of frost. He had never known it to be grown successfully more than three miles inland, and it could not be grown successfully in the South Island, explained the superintendent. It was a small tree growing, when matured, to a height of 12 to 20 feet, according to soil and locality. The wood was soft and brittle. The leaves were large, glossy green, from 4 inches to 16 inches in length, membranous and flaccid when young, but becoming firm and hard with age. It was in the flowers of the tree that its principal interest was centred. They were usually hermaphrodite, and often the stamens were abortive. There were six to eight stamens. The fruit, or seed-pod, was one to one and a half inches long, linear and fine-ribbed, and was excessively viscid. Herein lay the cause of so much criticism and condemnation of the species.

FLIES AND BIRDS CAUGHT

The viscosity was a sticky, glutinous substance exuding from the seed-pod, insects and flies alighting on it found themselves unable to extricate themselves. Sometimes small birds were caught, such as silver-eyes, sparrows and fantails, and even a native owl had been known to become entangled in the sticky substance. Those who had watched the tree closely had observed that most, of the birds that come in contact with it managed to escape, but often lost a feather or two in their struggles; those that struggled free carried seed with them and the feathers left behind were ultimately blown and scattered by the wind. This was Nature's way of distributing the seed of the species, and was quite distinct from the usual winged or explosive method seed distribution. The glutinous matter was effective for only a short period, as the flowering season lasted only for about three weeks. Some people thought, that birds were caught in a wholesale manner, in large numbers. This was an erroneous idea. All horticulturists were naturalists and bird-lovers, and could not delight in seeing birds caught.

No collection of native trees was complete without *Pisonia brunoniana*, and park authorities in Australia and the North Island of New Zealand were all working to make their collections as complete as possible. Ministers of the Crown, clergymen and branches of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals did not, agree with this policy. He was not going to say who was right, added Mr Horton, but he would like to ask all who were antagonistic to the tree this question: "Do you think Nature has made a mistake?" Mr Horton said he thought there was food for much thought in this question.

Mr. Horton referred to *Meryta sinclairii* as one of New Zealand's rarest trees, planted and grown in warm districts for ornamental purposes. It was frost tender and could be successfully grown only near the coast. It did best north of Napier and Wanganui. The Three Kings Islands were its original habitat.

The third tree of the group was *Entelea arborescens*, better known as the whau, said Mr Horton in conclusion. The genus was confined the North Island of New Zealand and the whau was the only species. The tree therefore could be regarded as a peculiarly New Zealand plant. Its large leaves and beautiful white flowers made it one of the most handsome of small trees. It used to be common along the coast of the northern part of the North Island, and was very plentiful near Gisborne. The wood was remarkably light and was used by the Maoris in the construction of floats for their fishing nets and rafts. The most remarkable feature was the fact that the wood was the lightest wood in the world, being only half the weight of cork. Whau was therefore often called the "cork-wood" tree. Stock were very fond of the foliage.

**TH, FEBRUARY 10, 1932
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
SKYLINE PINES
PUKEKURA PARK PROBLEM.
FINAL DECISION IN MARCH.**

Brief reference to the much-debated question of the pine trees in Pukekura Park was made at the monthly meeting of the Park Board on Tuesday night. In view of the fact, however, that members had not had an opportunity of perusing a long report from the superintendent, Mr. T. H. Horton, final consideration was held over until the next meeting.

There were present: Messrs. F. Amoores (chairman), R. C. Hughes, H. Dempsey, H. V. S. Griffiths, W. F. Short, C. E. Bellringer, F. Parker and T. H. Horton (superintendent).

With regard to the report (already published) submitted by Mr. V. C. Davies, consideration was also deferred. Mr. C. E. Bellringer said that on most points there was little difference of opinion, the main questions of difference concerning the trees on the south-western boundary by the walk through to Vogeltown, and those on the sky-line on top of the north-eastern terrace. There was a good deal of feeling, he found, against those trees being taken down, and there was something to be said in favour of keeping them there. From the point of view of preserving a good skyline they were of value, and whenever they were brought down the plantations nearby would suffer. The board had always been hesitant on the matter, which showed that they rather doubted the wisdom of doing so. He was inclined to think that the board might stay its hand.

The chairman pointed out that there was no intention of felling the trees for some time, until the new trees had had time to grow. He mentioned that the superintendent had just handed in a report on the matter and considered that it would probably be wiser to defer making decision until members had studied this report.

Mr. Bellringer understood that the condemned trees were to come down in the autumn. He moved that the matter be deferred until next meeting, and this course was adopted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Since last meeting, reported the superintendent, the staff had been busy assisting to remove and re-erect the old tea kiosk, painting it inside and out, and putting the surroundings in good order and condition. It was now used as a ladies rest-room and was very much appreciated. The old site had been filled up with clay, graded and metalled. Flower beds, planted with annuals and climbing plants, had been completed around the new building, and all essential work in that area done. An extension to the pergola, with necessary tables and seating accommodation, had also been carried out. Extra seating accommodation had been provided for about 40 people by erecting seats around trees near the rotunda and tea-house. The band rotunda had been thoroughly cleaned and painted.

The outside of the fernery and propagating house had had two coats of

paint and he hoped to paint the interior later. Sewerage work through the park was roughly put in order. Hoeing around newly planted trees, cutting grass, and general maintenance work was going on regularly and, speaking generally, the park and sports ground were in good condition.

Mr. Bellringer congratulated the chairman on the beautiful effect obtained in the area around the new building.

The application of the New Plymouth League Cycle Club for the use of the sportsground on one night a week was referred to the sportsground committee.

In reference to the report of Mr. V. C. Davies and a suggestion contained therein, it was decided to inform the Pukekura Park Tennis and Croquet Club, which had written on the subject, that the board had no intention of planting the area used by the club.

The chairman reported that over £4 had been collected in aid of the park at the band recital on Sunday last.

**HOROWHENUA CHRONICLE,
MARCH 5, 1932**

DAMAGE TO SPORTSGROUND

Officials Of the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic Club and the staff responsible for the care of the sportsground at Pukekura Park were very much annoyed on Tuesday, and justifiably so too, when they discovered that the turf had been damaged by a motor-car which had been driven a zig-zag course all about the ground. Special attention had been paid to the preparation of the ground for the Amateur Athletic Club's meeting on Saturday night and everything was in perfect order when the groundsman left on Monday evening. The culprits therefore drove into the park and on to the grounds late on Monday night. All the running tracks were badly marked by skidding tyres and those responsible had also driven about the cricket pitch.

In fact an inspection of the ground almost made it appear as though wilful damage had been done, more particularly at the starting and finishing points of the sprints tracks. There is some evidence that drinking had been going on as a handbag with bottles of beer and a number of "empties" have been picked up. The matter, it is understood, has been placed in the hands of the police.

TH, MARCH 9, 1932

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

At the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday night there were present: Messrs. F. Amoores (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker, H. Dempsey, R. W. Tate, R. C. Hughes, H. V. S. Griffiths, and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

Permission to discuss with the board the question of giving a lease was asked by the Park, Tennis and Croquet Club. The chairman and Messrs. Bellringer, Short and Dempsey were appointed to meet club representatives and report to the board.

The chairman and Messrs. Parker, Bellringer, Short and Stainton were

appointed to go into the question of the board's finance and make a report.

VISITORS TO FERNERY.

Since March 31, 1931, there have been more than 10,000 visitors to the fernery in Pukekura Park. The revenue amounts to £250. Members of the board expressed great satisfaction at the return, especially as the financial year has some weeks to run yet.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Mr. G. M. Spence resigned on account of leaving town.

The tea kiosk lease was signed by Mr. Burroughs.

TH, APRIL 13, 1932

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The monthly meeting of Pukekura Park Board was held at the Municipal Offices on Tuesday evening, the chairman, Mr. F. Amoores, presiding. There were also present Messrs. W. F. Short, R. W. Tate, F. Parker, H. Dempsey, H. V. S. Griffiths, V. C. Davies, C. E. Bellringer, R. C. Hughes, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent).

The chairman extended a cordial welcome to Mr. V. C. Davies, recently appointed a member of the board, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. G. M. Spence, and said he was sure Mr. Davies would prove himself a valuable acquisition to the board.

Mr. Davies thanked the chairman for his welcome and said his one desire in accepting the position was to be of service to the board and to the park.

Mr. Horton submitted for consideration a comprehensive scheme of work he would like carried out during the winter months, the suggested programme including the removal of a number of trees, several of which were dead, and the planting of tall conifers on vantage points, together with other specimen trees, native trees and shelter trees, in different parts of the park.

The chairman said that before expressing any definite opinion on the report he would like to go carefully over the ground and suggested therefore that consideration of Mr. Horton's recommendations be deferred and that a special meeting be held at the park itself, when they could see just exactly what was proposed.

Mr. Davies said he had been over a portion of the park with Mr. Horton and was conversant with what was Proposed up to that point. He would, however, like to have an opportunity of inspecting the remainder before voting on the question. So far as he had gone he was in total accord with Mr. Horton's recommendations with the exception of the removal of one poplar tree. Regarding the other trees which Mr. Horton suggested should be removed he was, as he had said, in total agreement because they were seriously interfering with the growth of choice native trees. In fact, it was essential, in his opinion, that the work should be done. He also expressed his hearty approval of the superintendent's proposal to plant a number of conifers, and said that nothing of this nature had been done in the park for some years. This was an excellent idea, and he expressed the hope that the

board would, after meeting at the park, express its approval.

It was ultimately decided to hold a special meeting in the park as suggested by the chairman when other reports from Mr. Davies and Mr. Horton will also be dealt with.

TH, APRIL 28, 1932

PUKEKURA PARK

PLANTING NEW TREES

CLEARING OUT DEAD ONES.

BOARD MAKE SPECIAL VISIT.

When members of the Pukekura Park Board paid a special visit of inspection to the park on Wednesday afternoon they found much clearing work in progress, especially about the pinus insignis trees, where the needles had formed a thick carpet. The park is in splendid order just now, and is given a touch of colour by the autumn tints of the trees on the lake edge near the band rotunda. The members of the board covered nearly the whole of the park with the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) and decided upon felling certain dead and dying trees at an opportune time, cutting back others with diseased growth, and treating the affected parts, planting specimen trees and shelter belts in various parts.

The bank opposite the tea house, where the boat staging stands, is to be reinforced and made absolutely safe, and small rustic fence erected along the top of the bank, which will make conditions for children playing nearby much safer, besides being in keeping with the surroundings.

PINES ON EASTERN RIDGE.

Careful consideration was given the belt of pines on the ridge behind the eastern terrace, and it was decided that they should remain until tall-growing trees that are to be planted nearby show growth.

A dead cypress on the left of the path leading from the sportsground to the band rotunda is to be removed, and the first puriri tree near the Diamond Jubilee monument is to have the dead growth cut, so that a creeper can be grown over. On the western slope, near the croquet greens, the clearing up work and the burning of pine needles and rubbish was approved. This will ensure against fire. In various places stakes were driven indicating likely positions for trees. The question of feeding the earth was considered, and it was decided to obtain 2cwt. of lime and two or three loads of manure for that purpose. A dead macrocarpa on this side of the park is to be taken down, dead wood on adjacent trees removed, and small trees planted.

A pine tree adjoining King's estate is to come out, as it is considered in a dangerous condition, and also a willow that is in a similar state. This will allow the planting of other trees. An English alder tree that is strangling a native honeysuckle is to be removed, so that the latter may have a chance to thrive.

ERADICATING DISEASE.

In the area near the racecourse a number of small leaf pukas have been affected with black smut, a disease that, as name suggests, blackens the foliage as if the trees have been in a soot storm. The only remedy is to cut out the diseased parts,

and give the new growth a chance. This will be done. Several of these trees that were treated last year are already showing excellent growth. A gum tree on the eastern slope is to be taken out, as it is dying, also a small sycamore at the rear of the outside stand on the racecourse, because of the tree's rapid spread; a dying pinus insignis on the right side of the racecourse walk; a dying puriri tree near the flagstaff on the racecourse boundary; and a self-sown Australian hakea, as it is strangling a young puriri beside it. Three macrocarpa trees over the children's swings are to be removed at an opportune time, as one is regarded as dead, another half dead, and the third well on the way to the same state. This will remove danger to children.

The board mapped out a programme of planting that includes a large number of native trees, trees of the cupressus lawsonia type, specimen trees like the thuja Gigantea, or the red cedar or British Columbia and Western American States. Careful attention was paid to the type of tree that should be planted along the slope parallel with the croquet and tennis lawns. It was agreed to plant trees of tall-growing nature that will give shelter, and the type will be decided later.

SHELTER BELTS.

At the north side, by Brooklands entrance, it was decided to prepare the ground near the fence for the planting of cupressus lawsonia and to shift further out young totaras and pohutukawas which have been growing for five years but have not done well owing to the action of frosts. This will form shelter against the mountain wind.

It was pointed out by the superintendent that it would be a retrograde step, in his opinion, to plant pinus insignis in the park, considering the experience of the past. They would last only 40 to 60 years and after that time those in charge would be faced with the same position as those to-day, with the trees naked and dying. They would only have to be cut out again.

Under the pines near the lower Brooklands entrance a strip is to be cleared and karakas grown, to come up under the pinus insignis. A shelter belt is needed in the south-west point on Brooklands Road, and trees of a nature to be decided upon will be planted there. Application is to be made to the Borough Council for a small strip of land between the south boundary and the adjoining road, and if obtained this will be planted with pines on the road and lawsoniana on the inside.

On the south-eastern boundary adjacent to the racecourse it was decided to plant specimen trees of the coniferous type, and on the boundary near Blewman's house a belt of karakas to break the wind that sweeps through. Evidence of the toll taken by a recent gale was apparent in the form of broken branches lying about. Three specimen trees of a large growing type are to be planted on flagstaff hill.

TH, MAY 12, 1932

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Wednesday at the Borough Council Chamber, there being present Messrs. F.

Amoore (chairman), R. C. Hughes, R. W. Tate, W. F. Short, V. C. Davies, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent).

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported that since the last meeting maintenance work had been done, and the fernery, sportsground and park generally were in good condition. Since the special meeting of the board in the park some of the trees authorised to be felled had been removed and digging had been done in preparation for planting during the coming season.

The superintendent attached a list of trees which he recommended for planting, and those which were not growing in the board's nursery could be ordered and reserved if approved.

The list of trees was approved and the superintendent was authorised to secure the reservation of such trees as were not available in the board's nursery. The matter of the planting of the inner trees was referred to Mr. Davies and the superintendent, with power to act.

The Beautifying Committee of the Borough Council reported to the council having inspected a portion of Brooklands Road, now in weed growth, and also the shrubbery at the southern end of the park. They asked the council's consent to the committee in conjunction with the board, removing the present fence to the top of the bank and planting about 12 large young conifers as near as possible to the outside of the present park boundary. It was suggested that as well as being an improvement it would remove a danger and be of great value to the park.

The report of the committee was forwarded to the board through the town clerk.

The recommendation was contained in the report of the board with reference to further planting made on the occasion of a meeting of the board in the park on April 27.

As a method of celebrating the 21st anniversary of the formation of the Girl Guide movement, the provincial commissioner for Taranaki (Mrs. D. K. Morrison) suggested that 21 trees be planted by the local Girl Guides in the park during the last week in May and consideration of the proposal was asked for by the commissioner.

The proposal was approved, subject to the location and the trees selected being approved by the superintendent.

Application was made by the Rev. F. A. Parry for the use of the vacant section between what is generally known as "Chaney's House" and Mr. Gaustad's property in Gover Street for use as a shelter paddock. He offered a rental of 25s per annum. He undertook to do certain fencing and to keep the section free of noxious weeds.

The application was granted, subject to three months' notice on either side.

Permission was granted to the Salvation Army for the Eltham Boys' Band to give a recital in the on Sunday afternoon and to take a Collection for the Army funds.

Advice was received from the Borough council of the subsidy of £850 made to the board by the council for the current financial year.

The action of the secretary in tendering to Mrs. C. H. Burgess the best wishes of the board on the eve of her departure for a trip abroad was confirmed.

TH, JUNE 15, 1932

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening there being present: Messrs. F. Amoores (chairman) R. W. Tate, W. F. Short, R. C. Hughes, H. V. S. Griffiths, F. Parker, V. C. Davies, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent). Apologies were received, from Messrs. C. E. Bellringer and H. Dempsey.

Mr. Horton reported that since last meeting most of the ground for this season's planting had been prepared and was ready to receive the trees which he proposed planting during the next week or two. The dead and dying trees he had been authorised to fell had been removed, much to the advantage of the adjacent growing trees. One of the large puriri trees near the band-stand had been cut back, many of the branches being quite dead. The old rustic fence in front of the tea-house had been removed, and a neat punga fence erected. Extra seating accommodation had been provided for about 30 people. The old fence at Brooklands Road corner had been removed and a new fence erected well out on the road. The area enclosed was being prepared for planting. A complete list of trees proposed to be planted (totalling over 600) had been agreed upon by the sub-committee appointed for the purpose, with the exception of those to be planted in the Brooklands corner, which had yet to be decided.

On May 27 the Girl Guides and their friends planted 22 trees, nearly all natives. These were well and truly planted under his supervision, and he felt sure would do well and be a fine addition to the flora in this part of the park.

Twenty-five pohutukawas, 12 hydrangeas and about 30 assorted native trees were sent from the nursery for planting at the cemetery.

The park was in good order for this time of the year.

Mr. Davies commented on the splendid appearance of the park and said he had heard very favourable comment from a number of visitors. The punga work which had been done was a decided improvement.

The chairman also made eulogistic reference to the work accomplished in the park.

The secretary reported a debit balance of £152 15s.

TREES TO BE PLANTED.

With reference to the planting at Brooklands Road Mr. Davies said the park superintendent and himself were not in agreement as to what should be done. Personally he was in favour of planting a number of pinus insignis to act as temporary top shelter for the lawsonias which would ultimately form the permanent shelter. The pinus insignis could be well cut back on the one side so as not to interfere with the lawsonia and could be removed altogether in say twelve years' time. In the meantime,

however, being a quick-growing tree they would provide very desirably shelter in this part of the park. So far as the western side of the park was concerned Mr. Horton and himself were agreed that the evergreen oak (quercus ilex) should be planted. This was an evergreen that made fairly rapid growth and would stand any wind.

Mr. Horton said the evergreen oak was eminently suitable for the purpose; given room it made a great breakwind. He knew trees planted forty feet apart that had grown together. The evergreen oak also thrived close to the sea and salt spray did not affect it. It did as well there in fact as did the pohutukawa. He was sorry he could not see eye to eye with Mr. Davies with regard to the planting at Brooklands Road. He felt that lawsonia filled the bill. It was a dense growing tree right down to the ground and at the same time grew high enough to provide all the shelter required in that part of the park. If pinus insignis was planted on the outside of the lawsonia then the lawsonia on that side would be thin in growth and would not recover when the other trees were removed.

VALUE OF PINE TREES.

Mr. Davies agreed that pines would weaken the lawsonia a little, but not sufficient to prove any real disadvantage. He contended that the pines would provide quick shelter for the time being and in that way help the lawsonias.

The chairman suggested that the matter might be adjourned until next meeting. He would like if possible to see unanimity on the question.

Mr. Horton said he could never agree to planting pinus insignis in the park. It was the tree which to-day was causing more work than any other variety in the park. They were continually having to remove dead branches and clean pine needles, and he expressed the opinion that in 25 years' time there would not be 20 healthy pinus insignis trees in the park. If pines were planted at Brooklands Road then this must repeat itself.

Mr. Davies: I only advocate pines here for the purpose of providing temporary shelter. They could be removed in 12 years' time.

Mr. Tate said there might be a public outcry against ever removing pinus insignis trees should they be planted.

Mr. Horton: I feel it would be a retrograde step to plant pinus insignis.

Mr. Parker suggested that a rewarewa belt might be planted. It made a beautiful topped tree and, did well here.

Mr. Tate: And it is a native, too.

Finally the matter was deferred until next meeting and members of the board will in the meantime inspect the locality. The recommendations of the committee re planting evergreen oaks was confirmed.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Mr. V. C. Davies reported that Mr. C. S. Sanders was making a donation of rhododendrons. Mr. Davies also advised that his firm was donating 50 native trees.

A bequest of £50 was left the park by the late Mrs. Paul.

TH, AUGUST 10, 1932

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING PLANTING OF SHELTER TREES PROPOSAL FOR PINES REJECTED.

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Borough Council Chambers, New Plymouth, on Tuesday evening. There were present. Messrs. F. Amoores (chairman), R. C. Hughes, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, R. W. Tate, V. C. Davies, H. Dempsey, F. Parker, and T. Horton (superintendent). An apology was received from Mr. P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

Practically all planting authorised and a good deal more had been completed for this season—some 750 trees in all had been planted during the last three months, said the superintendent. "The only exception," he added, "is the fifteen trees required for Brooklands corner." Mr. Davies and himself could not agree on the variety and there seemed to be no hope of them coming to an agreement and he now awaited the board's instruction." He added that as two rows of lawsonias were already planted there it was not absolutely essential to plant the line of trees in dispute.

A short discussion ensued with reference to the question of shelter trees at the southern end of the park. Mr. Davies said he did not wish to plant pines. He would prefer to plant native trees anytime, but he still felt it would be an advantage to plant a number of pine trees as he had previously suggested for temporary shelter purposes to the permanent lawsonia trees. Until the latter got up well the pines would also form a splendid background to the park in that locality. The pines, however, should be kept well trimmed on the sides so as to give ample space for the lawsonias and in twelve to fifteen years they could be cut down.

Mr. Short said he would like to see the pines planted and therefore he supported Mr. Davies.

Mr. Horton contended that pines were not absolutely essential, and, further, that the ground had been thoroughly prepared and by continual cultivation growth of the lawsonias would be encouraged. Moreover, to plant pines and then cut them out in a few years' time would have a detrimental effect on the lawsonia.

Mr. Short proposed that a line of pines be planted and Mr. Davies seconded. Mr. Tate said he would like to support the proposal to show that he was not opposed to the planting of pines, but he was very dubious about planting them as a temporary breakwind.

OPPOSED TO PINES.

The chairman said he was definitely opposed to the planting of any trees that were to be cut down again in ten or twelve years' time, and was against planting any more pinus insignis at all. In this particular instance, however, he agreed with the superintendent and did not think it necessary to plant any more trees at all.

Mr. Davies: You must not forget that the pines have made Pukekura Park.

Mr. Tate: Credit must certainly be given to the pines and there are parts of the park where it would be criminal to remove them. But this is a different

matter and should be judged on its merits.

THE MOTION WAS LOST.

The superintendent further reported that since his last report a great proportion of the park had been thoroughly overhauled. This had included the cutting out of dead wood, removal of superfluous and unnecessary growth, the grubbing out of gorse, blackberry and fern, mowing heavy grass growth, filling open spaces with extra trees, and the burning up of all the rubbish. Some areas thus treated had never previously been cleaned up. The results of this work would be healthier and more vigorous tree growth, less danger from fire and a clean and tidy appearance. The canna and other flower beds and borders had been dug and prepared for spring planting.

The rhododendron dell had also been overhauled and lupin and leaf mould applied and dug in.

The seven islands in the upper reaches of the large lake and in the water lily Lake have been similarly treated.

The punga railing near the kiosk had been completed and an extension of this work was now being done so as to run to a point about 50ft, on the Vogeltown side of the landing steps. Extra seating accommodation was being erected the full length of the punga railing and would accommodate approximately an extra 200 people. Forty extra pohutukawas had been planted on the hill at the eastern side of the sports ground. White pines and King ferns had been planted in the low, damp part of the gully running south-east from the sports ground, and quite a number of other assorted native trees planted on the higher slopes in the same area.

OVERHAUL OF FERNERY.

The annual overhaul of the fernery had been completed. This included the cutting off of all old growth, thinning out, application of fresh soil and spraying of disease. It was important that the big bridge be repaired without delay, and if approved he proposed to put the work in hand at once.

Donations of trees and plants had been received from Messrs. Duncan and Davies, Anderson and Sons, of Napier, and Mr. J. Wheeler.

On the motion of Mr. Bellringer the chairman, superintendent and Mr. Davies were appointed a committee to decide and carry into effect planting along the racecourse boundary.

Mr. Davies said that rhododendron and azalea dells were peculiarly suited to Pukekura Park, and he thought there was room for development in this direction in future years. Sir Heaton Rhodes, when on his recent visit to New Plymouth, had been charmed with Pukekura Park, especially the fernery and the rhododendron dell, and had expressed the hope that the park would be preserved in its present natural state.

Mr. Bellringer congratulated Mr. Horton on the condition of the rhododendron dell which, he said, would eventually be quite a feature of the park. The trees were looking well and soon they would see some of the new varieties Mr. Horton brought out from Home with him would be in bloom.

REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE.

The chairman explained that the small bridge near the tea kiosk was in a state of repair and he suggested that arrangements be made for the construction of a culvert to take its place. He estimated that the cost would be in the vicinity of £10 by utilising unemployed labour. He explained that while the bridge needed attention he did not suggest that it was unsafe for pedestrian traffic.

The matter was deferred until next meeting, when the board will be considering financial matters.

Mr. Horton was authorised to carry out work at the bridge as suggested in his report.

Thanks were accorded to Mr. Just, of Palmerston North, for his donation of trees.

A sub-committee consisting of the chairman, Mr. Bellringer and the secretary was appointed to go into the question of finance and bring down an estimate of receipts and expenditure for the current year. It was reported that at date the overdraft was £167.

The Taranaki Acclimatisation Society wrote suggesting that the punga building which until recently was used as a hatchery in the park be purchased from the society.

It was stated during a short discussion which ensued that many of the pungas were decayed at ground level and that therefore the building was of no real value except for the few sheets of iron which formed the roof.

It was decided to reply to the effect that the board did not consider the building of any value.

TH, NOVEMBER 9, 1932 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday night, there being present Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), F. Parker, W. F. Short, R. C. Hughes, V. C. Davies and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

The sub-committee consisting of the chairman and Mr. C. E. Bellringer and the secretary reported on the financial position of the board. After careful consideration their finding was that the expenditure for the year ended March 31, 1933, would be £619 10s and the receipts £607, leaving a debit balance of £12 10s. This was arrived at by estimating wages, insurance and sundries at £580, plus an outstanding account £39 10s. On the receipts side the following estimated amounts had been added to a credit balance of £145. as at October 31, 1932: Subsidy due to March 31, 1933, £212; receipts fernery, £125; receipts boats, \$20; rent of kiosk, £40; sportsground and other rents, £65.

The committee pointed out that it would take careful handling to balance accounts at the end of the financial year. The estimated revenue from the fernery and boats was probably on the conservative side, but the committee had deemed it advisable to err on the side of caution in this respect as it was impossible to gauge what the travelling public would be during the summer owing to the present outlook. As an amount of £75 had been received this

year as donations it would be evident that expenses would have to be very carefully watched next year as receipts from donations were an unknown quantity.

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) said the fernery had been fairly well patronised during the winter, the takings being only £10 below those for the corresponding period last year.

Mr. Stainton said it seemed that the board would about balance its finances at the end of the financial year.

The New Plymouth Sportsground Committee submitted a statement showing that the income for the year just ended was down by £113 19s 19d compared with last year. In view of this it was apparent the committee could not continue to pay the board £160 a year for wages for the sportsground. After careful consideration it had been decided to ask the board to accept £120 for the twelve months ended on November 1. The proposal was agreed to.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The superintendent reported that in addition to routine work a boundary fence had been erected between the park and Mr. Simons' property and a hedge had been planted. Mr. Simons had found all the material and the park staff had done the work. Forty king ferns had been planted in the gully at the back of the sportsground. The drain in this gully had been trimmed and cleared of weeds and rubbish. On the brow of the hill above the rhododendrons and azaleas, 100 totaras, 86 coprosma and 15 assorted native trees had been planted.

An immense accumulation of debris in the creek near Mr. G. M. Spence's property had been removed and the banks trimmed and cleared. Pungas had been used to face the banks on both sides of the implement shed. Gorse, fennel and other noxious weeds and rough fern growth on the bank at the end of the Fillis Street gully had been grubbed and cleared preparatory to tree-planting.

Seasonal work had been done on the sportsground, such as the preparation of the cricket pitches, top-dressing, seed-sowing, weed-killing, etc. Grass was now being cut on the terraces, to which weed-killer was being applied.

Large quantities of silt had accumulated at the dam near the Brooklands Road. This was removed periodically for filling in paths and depressions. A southerly gale had broken a big old rewarewa in the native bush.

The Salvation Army was granted the use of the park and the boats for a concert on the lake on the evening of November 13, the charge for the boats being £1. Permission was given to take a collection.

The question of repairing the bridge near the kiosk was left in the hands of the chairman and Mr. Short, with power to act.

The board passed votes or thanks to the following for donations: Mr. Zumbach (dahlias and other plants) and Mr. and Mrs. L. Little (a sack of pollard for the ducks).

1933

Colonel Tate resigned from the Park Committee and was replaced by E. J. Carr. The new Mayor Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour also joined the Park Committee.

A major undertaking at the beginning of the year was the desilting of the lower lake from which Horton estimated that 2350 tons of silt was removed. This was all done by hand with shovels and wheelbarrows. Disposing of such a quantity was challenging, some was used on flower beds and quite a large amount was used to reclaim a section of the lily pond north of the old hatchery building.

Removing two to three feet of silt unearthed some surprises: a six-inch glazed pipe running across the floor of the lake from the direction of the Sportsground, and seventeen logs of various sizes, mainly pine, which Horton was at a loss to explain how they got there. Horton's theory about the pipe was that when the formation of the Sportsground was first mooted there was a stream running across the area and it would need diverting or piping before the area could be filled to become a playing field. The pipe captures and diverts a stream that arises in what is now called King Fern Gully, under or around the Sportsground and away to the Pukekura Stream. In the years that have passed silt to a depth of over two feet in places has settled on the pipeline.

In the middle of the lower lake was a small island which Horton decided to make bigger. His idea was to erect a wall of punga around the small island six feet from its bank using approximately 300 punga, then filling the void with silt that was being dug up. This was a convenient way of disposing of more silt. The island that Horton created was ultimately removed in 1955 when the Queen Elizabeth Fountain was erected.

The desilting of the lake took over two months to complete. The work of clearing the lake was done using relief workers who did such a good job that they were kept on and put to work cleaning the lake at Brooklands. 1100 tons of silt was carted away to the Fitzroy golf course and Rugby Park.

Under the terms of the will of the late Mr. Newton King, who died in 1927, varying amounts totalling £7000 were bequeathed to New Plymouth reserves as follows: —Pukekura Park, £3000, East End Reserve, £2000; Kawaroa Park, £2000. With the consent of beneficiaries interested under the terms of the will, the trustees offered the valuable "Brooklands" property (53 acres 1 rood and 19 perches) in complete fulfilment of the terms of the will in respect of these three reserves. This was a very generous action and having made satisfactory arrangements with the Kawaroa and East End committees, the New Plymouth Borough Council accepted "Brooklands" to be placed under the control of the Pukekura Park Board. The gift included the buildings and chattels on the property. The transfer was done through an Act of Parliament. Thomas Horton was asked to produce a report to highlight what work needed to be done to incorporate Brooklands with Pukekura Park. Work in Brooklands by the park staff was started before the transfer was completed. Brooklands was opened to the public on December 21, 1933. When the transfer was completed Newton King's son Eliot was given a place on the park committee and his long-time gardener Tom Boulton was asked to continue in his job.

The park also received a large bequest from the estate of Charles Score Sanders, £350 of which he wanted set aside to make a rhododendron dell, plus, after providing for legacies and bequests of a private nature and payment of the usual duties and charges, the Trustee was directed to keep the residue of the estate in trust for the New Plymouth Borough Council to be used for permanent improvements to Pukekura Park which would be of benefit to the public. This was a large sum of money.

One of the significant plantings this year was a belt of pohutukawas planted as a hedge on the northern boundary of the Park, adjacent to Fillis Street. Three trees from this hedge still remain today."

Plant Donations Included:

Duncan and Davies, azaleas; Mr. R. W. Davies, fifty punga; Mr. C. Sanders bequest, rhododendron "grande,".



BEAUTIFUL "BROOKLANDS"

Notable Gift To New Plymouth
EXTENSION TO PUKEKURA PARK
Fifty Acres Of Valuable Property
GENEROSITY OF NEWTON KING ESTATE
(*Taranaki Herald*, September 2, 1933)

"Brooklands," for many, many years the beautiful home of the late Mr. Newton King, is to become the property of the Borough of New Plymouth. Comprising some 53 acres of lawn, garden and native bush reserve, "Brooklands" has been one of the finest private residences in New Zealand. Now, by agreement with the trustees of the late Mr. Newton King's estate, to be validated by a Local Bill to be introduced in Parliament by the New Plymouth Borough, it has been handed over to the people of the town. Negotiations to secure this end have been in train for many months and

the agreement with the trustees was signed some weeks ago.

Under the terms of the will of the late Mr. Newton King, who died in 1927, varying amounts totalling £7000 were bequeathed to New Plymouth reserves as follow: Pukekura Park, £3000, East End Reserve, £2000; Kawarua Park, £2000. With the consent of beneficiaries interested under the terms of the will, the trustees have offered the valuable "Brooklands" property in complete fulfilment of the terms of the will in respect of these three reserves. This is a very generous action and, having made satisfactory arrangements with the Kawarua and East End committees, the New Plymouth Borough Council has accepted "Brooklands" to be placed under the control of the Pukekura Park Board. The gift includes the buildings and chattels on the property.

The area of the property deeded to the borough is 53 acres 1 rood 19 perches. The agreement is signed by representatives of the trustees, council and three interested reserves. Under its terms the trustees of the Newton King estate have maintained the property until the Government has ratified the gift. On being taken over by the council it will be under the control of the Pukekura Park Board. The property adjoins the park and stretches to the back of the bush reserve.

The gift, which will be a source of gratification to townspeople, will considerably enhance the attractions of Pukekura Park. The committees of the Kawarua Park and East End Reserve have generously sacrificed their interests in the estate in order that the town as a whole may benefit.

Newton King (TH, SEPTEMBER 2, 1933)

Born at Mangorei, New Plymouth, on July 21, 1855, Mr. King was the second son of Mr. Thomas King, one of the first settlers to arrive here from England. He was educated at Mr. W. M. Crompton's school, and on leaving at the age of about 15 years he entered the office of Messrs. Webster Bros., where he acquired his early commercial training. Here he remained for about nine years. At the end of 1879 he joined Mr. R. G. Bauchope, who was carrying on the business of land and commission agent and accountant, and on January 1, 1880, the new firm commenced under the style Bauchope and King. It was decided to add auctioneering to the firm's activities although there were already in the town three auctioneers, Messrs. T. E. Hamerton, W. Courtney and P. C. Morton.



The First Sale.

The firm's first sale was held on February 21, 1880, when Mr. King commenced a career as auctioneer, in which he soon displayed a talent which in a few years made him one of the best known businessmen not only in Taranaki, but in the Dominion for it was recorded then that a well-known Canterbury auctioneer, after visiting New Plymouth, had told his friends of a young man in New Plymouth who would make his mark as an auctioneer.

On August 25, 1880, the firm opened yards at the Waiwhakaiho, and held its first stock sale there, about 150 head of cattle being yarded. In 1881 the firm dissolved partnership, Mr. King carrying on the auctioneering business on his own account and buying the good-will of Mr. Courtney in his cattle saleyards at Glenavon and other places. He thus added yards at Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford, Oakura and Stony River to his rapidly extending business and to these were added other yards at convenient centres in later years.

To auctioneering were added the business of land and commission agencies, shipping and insurance agencies, together with those of produce and seed merchant, and later agricultural implements, wholesale merchandise, and more recently still, the motor business. He established branches in Stratford, Inglewood, and in other centres, finally, about thirteen years ago, converting the whole into a company, of which he was chairman and managing director up to the time of his death. Apart from his own personal business Mr. King was closely and actively associated with other concerns. He was one of the founders of the Crown Dairy Company, which for many years owned a number of dairy factories around Mt. Egmont and as far away as Hawke's Bay. He was also for some time interested in a butter tinning factory for export to Eastern countries. For over 30 years he was chairman of the New Plymouth Sash and Door Company and for many years also a director of the Taranaki Building Society, besides being connected with many other local and provincial activities where his advice was eagerly sought and highly valued.

Several Public Positions.

In spite of all these numerous activities Mr. King found time to occupy several public positions. He was one of the founders of the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce and was its first president in 1889. In that year he was elected to the New Plymouth Harbour Board, of which he was chairman from 1917 to 1922. He was always a generous supporter of the Taranaki agricultural Society and was president in 1903. He was also for some years a trustee of the New Plymouth Savings Bank. Always keenly interested in sport, Mr. King was president of the Taranaki Jockey Club and also of two or three other provincial racing clubs. His colours were well-known on the principal racecourses of the Dominion and were carried by many successful performers. In his youth he played football and represented Taranaki against Auckland in the first encounter between the two provinces many years ago. Other sports, too, found him generous supporter.

His great hobby, however, was his garden and there Mr. King was seen at his best. His home at Brooklands was surrounded by beautiful gardens and native bush, of which he was intensely proud. When it was possible for him to put aside for the time being his multifarious business affairs no more delightful companion could be found than Mr. King in his gardens. In all commercial matters a very keen man of business, the moment he could put business aside temporarily he showed another side of his character with a sociability and manner of rare charm.

Mr. King was in many respects a man of very remarkable parts; that is proved by the fact that, although all his early commercial experience was gained in what was then a little country market town, he was able, almost unaided and with no special advantages, to build up in the space of 40 years, from 1880 to 1920, what was perhaps the biggest one-man business in New Zealand. This success was due to being built on a foundation of strict integrity, to an immense capacity for work, to enterprise based on unbounded faith in Taranaki, and to a wonderful instinct - there is no other name for it—in his judgment of character. Many stories might be told of the assistance he gave to men who wished to take up land without capital, with little security other than his estimate of the character of the man assisted. There are many such men in Taranaki to-day who owe their start and their subsequent success very largely to Mr. Newton King. His enterprise and faith in the district, as well as his unbounded energy and capacity for work, may be well illustrated by the fact that in the early days of Stratford he used to ride there from New Plymouth to hold stock sales and often under depressing climatic conditions had to ride home again after selling a few old cows or young stock.

Mr. Newton King was not only a remarkable man of affairs but in his personal character a man of exceedingly lovable qualities.

THE GABLES (TH, SEPTEMBER 9, 1933)

AN HISTORIC BUILDING – OLD COLONIAL HOSPITAL

There stands on the "Brooklands" property an historic building known as "The Gables." This was originally known as "The Colonial Hospital" and its site was five acres of land between the Henui River and the Mangorei Road. In December, 1847, the newly appointed Governor of New Zealand, Sir George Grey, forwarded from Auckland a plan for a hospital to cost £700.

Reference to the hospital is found in Mr. W. H. Skinner's recent work, "Pioneer Medical Men of Taranaki." "The hospital building," he says, "was designed by Mr. Thatcher, the same architect who drew up the plans for the original St. Mary's Church, and the old Vicarage, Courtenay Street, Henui, and St. John's Chapel, Tamaki, Auckland. The building certainly had a picturesque exterior, but as



The "Gables" in the 1860s being used as an army outpost. Its location was in the grounds of the present-day Girls High School, a few metres north of the tennis courts.

(Puke Ariki. ARC2004-248)

to the internal arrangements we understand they were far from being convenient. From 1848 to 1860 the hospital was under the direction of Dr. Peter Wilson and was occupied by patients both European and Maori. Apart from the doctor the staff consisted of one male assistant, the late Thomas M'Guinness being the steward during the latter period of the institution's occupation. A photograph of the building is reproduced.

"In a letter to Mr. Donald M'Lean, Native Secretary, Auckland, under date of January 25, 1858 Dr. Wilson states: 'I send forward my annual list of 'out and in' patients for the past year. For a long time, i.e. ever since Rawini died within its walls, very few Maori patients have been admitted, and I understand the same diminution has been experienced at Wanganui. I begin, therefore, to think that the keeping up of the establishment is quite an unnecessary expense to the Government, and that it should be handed over to the Provincials who are so fond of all sorts of usurpations, and as white people frequent its wards as much as Maoris do.'

"On the outbreak of the Maori troubles in 1860 and the close investment of New Plymouth by the Natives, it became necessary to make other arrangements for hospital service. Every residence to the north of the Henui River, with the exception of the Anglican and Primitive Methodist Churches with their parsonages and the hospital, had been burnt by the insurgents. Included in this destruction was the residence of Dr. Wilson, situated on the north side of Devon Street, about one hundred yards eastward of Nobs' Line. The hospital was probably spared, having become tapu by reason of one of the leading Maoris having died there, notably Rawini Waiana, the leading chief of the Puketapu people, who was brought into the hospital from the Corbett Road, Bell Block, after being mortally wounded in an attack by his countrymen on August 3, 1854, as protest, against his proposed sale to the Government of the Lower Tarururangi block.

"Owing, as explained to the dangerous condition of the locality, use of the building as a hospital was abandoned and other arrangements were hurriedly made to meet the unexpected conditions that had arisen by the sudden outbreak of hostilities and the crowding in of the whole population of the country districts (Bell Block, Omata, Tarata, and from the Frankley, Carrington and Mangorei Roads) within the contracted defensive lines of the town. To meet this urgent need, a building situated on the corner of Brougham and Vivian Streets (site now occupied by a doctor's residence) was commandeered by the authorities in the latter half of 1860. The 'Colonial Hospital' had in the meantime been taken over by the Military, and occupied as an outpost in defence of the town."

In the late 90's the land on which the "Colonial Hospital" stood was exchanged for the purpose of a secondary education reserve (where the New Plymouth Girls' High School now stands) and the building was put up for removal. It was purchased by the late Mrs. Newton King, who wished to preserve an historic landmark. The building was demolished and re-erected on its present "Brooklands" site.

Note: Dismantled would be a better word to describe what happened to the building when it was moved rather than demolished as stated in the last paragraph.

BROOKLANDS REPORT

̄ Report on Brooklands compiled jointly by Thomas Horton and Tom Boulton (Brooklands Head Gardener).

This report for the Park Board was done to highlight the volume of work required to successfully incorporate Brookland into Pukekura Park once it was officially handed over. It was issued on December 30, 1933

FENCES

The boundary fences all require overhauling. Some new posts and battens will be required, and where new wires are necessary, we can use spare wire from intermediate fences, that we recommend be removed. It is imperative that all boundary fences be put in good order promptly, so as to ensure safety from stock.

The boundary of the Brooklands area, (excluding the bush gully near Upjohn Street) is roughly 100 chains. To repair the boundary fences efficiently, it will require 78 posts, 4 strainers, 100 battens and 5 stays. The bush gully area at the far end of the estate, containing 5 acres 1 rood 11 perches has a boundary of approximately 39 chains, and of this, 24 chains require to be erected. For this purpose, we require 80 posts, 4 strainers, 200 battens, 5 stays, 5cwt wire and staples. Total material required, and cost, is as follows:-

158 totara posts @ 2s 3d = £19 1s 10d

8 Strainers @ 10s = £4

300 Battens @ 15s = £2 5s

3 Cwt Barbed Wire @ 19s = £2 17s

2 Cwt Plain Wire @ 16s = £1 12s

25 lbs Staples @ 3d = 6s 3d

10 Stays, 12ft long, 4 x 3 = £1 16s

Total = £31 18s 1d

DIVIDING FENCES

There are over one hundred chains of dividing fences. Some of these are in good condition, and in others, repairs are necessary.

The dividing fence between the orchard and garden, we recommend should be removed, and this will give us all the material necessary for repairing the other dividing fences.

The fence in front of the homestead, we suggest be moved out at the North-east corner, so as to enclose the small group of trees at present exposed to stock.

Practically all the wires on boundary and dividing fences will require to be tightened up.

ORCHARD

The old orchard, we suggest, should be destroyed, trees grubbed out, and the area prepared for planting. We recommend this area be planted in assorted native trees.

At the Western side of the orchard, there is at present a row of pines, affording fair shelter from Westerly winds. This shelter belt should be strengthened and considerably fortified, by planting additional pines or other suitable shelter trees on the vacant land at the western side of the present row of pines. The row of Lawsoniana now growing between the orchard and front garden shrubbery, we suggest, should be dug up, and replanted approximately twenty-five feet from their present position. In close proximity to the Lawsoniana hedge, are some dilapidated old pines and a smothering growth of Eleagnus. We advise these be grubbed out later on.

PARKING SITE

We recommend that a suitable area near the gate leading into the orchard and to the right of the main entrance gate, be reserved and prepared for this purpose.

SHELTER BELT

All that area between Messrs Grundy, Bond and Shepherds boundary, on the western side of the bush, we suggest be planted with suitable shelter trees; and that this shelter be extended (at least half a chain wide) along the whole of the Southern side of the bush to Mr. List's gully.

BUSH PATHS OR TRACKS.

We suggest that all the old bush tracks be opened up and clearly defined, and new tracks formed where essential. That notices be erected where necessary, asking visitors to keep to the defined tracks and not to injure or mutilate trees, or remove ferns or plants. The opening of the bush paths as indicated will reveal a much greater extent of bush than most people think there is, and we are of the opinion that walks through this portion of the property will become very popular and enjoyable. A really good job of these tracks can be made without the necessity of cutting or damaging much of the growth. It will be necessary to cut through a dead log or two, and to remove a little of the debris, but we advise leaving everything as natural as possible. From these paths, visitors can obtain a glorious view of the whole bush area, and there should be no reason or excuse for anyone not keeping to the regulations.

The historic puriri tree and one or two other trees of special value and interest, we advise, should have a low protecting fence erected around them.

Many of the trees in the native bush are threatened with ruin by the phenomenal smothering growth of a noxious climbing plant. To save the trees it will be advisable to remove this as much as it is possible. Quite a lot has already been removed, but it is a slow and tedious job, much of the growth being difficult to get at.

VEGETABLE GARDEN AND SMALL-FRUIT AREA.

We advise that this area be cleaned up, trees and plants eradicated, posts and wire removed and the whole of this part be levelled up and prepared, so as to extend the lawn over to the bush. There are two small hedges, (Escallonia and Fuchsia) that may have to be removed to enable this scheme to be carried out. When completed this will be a very decided improvement. We think this work should put in hand as soon as possible.

A very fine specimen of Fagus Purpurea (Purple Beech) now growing outside the entrance gates, together with two or three other specimen trees, could be planted on this new grass extension, which we think would considerably enhance the beauty of the garden.

There are several large flowering shrubs, now overcrowded and getting ruined, which should be transplanted to more suitable positions, notably the Ghent Azaleas and one or two ordinary Azaleas. This should be done next Autumn.

The summer-house and garden seats want overhauling. This work is urgent. A few more garden seats should be provided, and at least half a dozen erected in the bush.

BUILDINGS.

The Gables: This has a tenant in and we have not inspected, but the hedges around the property have recently been trimmed, the paths cleaned up, and the place looks spick and span.

The Bungalow: The building is in fair condition, the papering of a room, a little paint, and small repairs to the spouting, will make it good. The electric range, copper and tubs, having been removed, these will require to be replaced. The garden and shelter hedges need trimming up and grass cut and fences repaired.

The Vinery: This is a well constructed house, in excellent order, and only requires painting periodically to keep it in first class condition.

Conservatory and begonia House: This is in fair order. Some repairs are necessary. It requires painting.

Propagating House: This also requires painting; otherwise this is in good condition.

Potting shed: We advise this be removed to a more suitable position, one of greater privacy. This building and the out-door frames are in fair order, but are in the wrong place for a public park, and are too small for requirements.

Motor garage Near Gate: We advise this building be removed to a position at the back of the trees, near the South-east end of the old barn, to be used as an implement, tool, potting shed, and general purposes for the permanent staff. This building to be efficiently screened from public view. The old potting shed could be attached to this building as an office and store-room for records, seeds, spraying materials, etc. A private room of this nature is essential.

Old Stables and Barn: The group of buildings comprising the above are in a dilapidated condition, and should be removed. Some of the iron and best of the doors and timber might be used to advantage in the construction of temporary conveniences for the public. The old building adjoining the dairy at back of the house, we think should also be removed. It is in bad condition and a source of danger from fire.

The Homestead: We are not reporting on, presuming you will be getting a more expert report than we would be able to furnish.

CONSERVATORY.

This is well stocked with suitable plants for requirements, and features of the place at this time of the year.

RHODODENDRONS.

If the Board finally decide to adopt the site that has been recommended for the Sanders Rhododendron Dell, then a great deal of preparatory work will be necessary, such as digging, draining, fencing, etc.

There is a swampy area between the old Park boundary and the Brooklands lake, eminently suitable for a sunken bog or iris garden. We suggest this work be put in hand as opportunity offers.

CONNECTING PATHS.

There are three paths in the park, that can quite easily be extended into Brooklands.

No 1. is the lower bush path starting at the steps by the Tea House. This goes right through the Park bush, and can be carried on through the bush in Brooklands, on the racecourse side of the lake, as far as the bridge.

No 2. is on the Western side of the arm of water beyond the boat house. This can be taken right on, following the bank at the Western side of the lake, and merging into another path on the hillside, right in front of the homestead.

No 3. is what we know as the "totara" walk. This can be extended along the hillside, under the Park-like trees growing in No. 1 paddock, and thence on until it junctions with No. 2 in front of the house. From this path, a beautiful elevated view will be had of the bush, lake and proposed Rhododendron Dell.

We are making no report on that portion of the estate between the main drive and Brooklands Road, unless you desire us to do so.

We think cattle and other large stock should not be allowed in the paddocks where English trees are growing. breeding ewes and lambs should be used to graze in these parts.

We think we have given you a fairly full and detailed report of Brooklands as it is, and our suggestions for its improvement, and we think the suggested work will take two or three years to carry through. This, of course, depends on the amount of labour that will be available to assist the permanent staff.

Thomas Horton F.R.H.S

T. C. Boulton



A survey plan of Brooklands Park 1933 (Puke Ariki ARC2014-042)

**WAIKATO INDEPENDENT
FEBRUARY 7, 1933**

A plant that blooms only once every 14 years is flowering for the first time in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. It is the American agave, or aloe, botanically classified as *striata variegata*, and is native of Mexico and northern parts of South America. From a bunch of fleshy, flax-like leaves, with yellow variegations, a yellow stem rises 14ft or more. At the top slender yellow branches curve outwards and at the end of each is a curious yellow flower, a circle of yellow fingers, or prongs, rising from a fleshy base. The flower-head resembles an elaborate candelabra.

TH, MARCH 15, 1933

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night when there were present: Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary), R. C. Hughes, F. Parker, C. E. Bellringer, V. C. Davies, H. V. S. Griffiths, W. F. Short, J. McLeod.

The park superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported that general maintenance work had been carried out since the last meeting of the board. Recent heavy winds had broken a 50-foot branch of a pine tree, but the branch fortunately did no damage. The attendance at the fernery and patronage of the boats during the holidays had been very good, even better than last year, and patrons were very enthusiastic in their appreciation.

Mr. E. J. Carr, district agent of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation of London, wrote that the general manager of his company, Mr. O. R. Bendall, had recently visited the park and was so impressed by its beauty and the work being done by the board that he had issued instructions that the board be given an annual donation of £1 1s from the Corporation. He mentioned that he felt sure that if other insurance companies were approached they would no doubt treat the board in the same manner.

The secretary reported having written to the Corporation thanking them for the donation and expressing thanks for interest in the board's work.

The secretary of the New Plymouth Canary and Cage Bird Club wrote that the members of the club had in mind the matter of an aviary in the park and were of the opinion that were an aviary established it would enhance the popularity of the park. There were many people who would place their feathered pets in such an aviary. Should the board entertain the proposal a committee from the club would be willing to wait on the board. It was decided to ask a committee from the club to wait on the board. Some members thought the aviary an excellent idea, while others thought it might be a source merely of expense.

Major F. W. Sandford waited on the board as Dominion Commissioner for the training of Boy Scouts and stated that headquarters had in mind a scheme for forming a "Rover" (senior boys and

young men) company of Scouts in New Plymouth. Land was required for the erection of a Scout "den," a building about 40 feet by 25 feet. The board had a filled-in section in Gilbert Street which would be eminently well suited to the erection of such a building. Major Sandford outlined the proposed scheme of work to be undertaken by the "Rover" Scouts. The chairman, Messrs. Griffiths and Short were appointed a committee to consider the matter and report to the next meeting of the board.

The action of the chairman in granting a week of his annual holidays to the park superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) was approved.

Several accounts were paged for payment.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Colonel Tate resigned from the board.

TH, APRIL 12, 1933

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
CREDIT BALANCE SHOWN
PARK BOARD ACCOUNTS
SURPLUS FOR YEAR OF £70.**

FERNERY RECEIPTS KEEP UP WELL
For the year ending March 31, 1933, the receipts of the Pukekura Park Board totalled £1411 9s 3d, and expenditure £1340 11s 1d, leaving a credit balance of £70 18s 1d, it was reported at the monthly meeting of the board last night. It was stated that although the board, in anticipation of reduced receipts owing to the general financial stringency, had estimated that the fernery would earn £200, it had actually earned £289, compared with £293 the previous year.

There were present: Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), R. C. Hughes, H. Dempsey, C. E. Bellringer, V. C. Davies, H. V. S. Griffiths, W. F. Short, J. McLeod, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent).

The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that the work of maintaining the park had been carried on by the general staff, assisted by returned soldiers and relief men. On the sports ground patches where the grass had been worn out by bowlers in cricket matches had been top-dressed and resown. The whole of the sportsground had been harrowed, top-dressed and manured, also sown in places where the grass was weak. Necessary preparations had been made for the beginning of the football season. The main drains had been inspected and cleaned out where necessary. He had procured timber for repairing steps on the hillside paths, also for making a new ladder, which was often needed.

It was his intention to let the water out of the lower lake after Easter and remove accumulated silt and rubbish. This would entail quite a lot of extra work and extra relief workers were being taken on as he wished to have the task completed as expeditiously as possible. During the work it would be necessary to close an area of the pathway on the eastern side of the lake.

He had recently inspected the trees planted last year and was pleased to

report that only eight or ten had failed. The rest were all doing well, the result of careful cultivation. The failures he proposed replacing at an early date.

He would like to plant out 50 to 100 more tree ferns during the coming planting season in places where he thought they would do well. He had very few in the nursery sufficiently strong. Considering that 900 trees were planted last year, he thought that the failure of only one per cent, was a most satisfactory result.

The suggested work in clearing the lower lake was approved. Members also favoured the planting of further tree ferns. Mr. Davies thought that these could be secured free of charge from his brother at Oakura, and he offered to bring them in to the park. The chairman expressed the board's thanks to Messrs. Davies brothers.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Boy Scouts' Club House: A request was received by Major Sandford for a site on the Gilbert Street section for a Club House. Not granted.

Brooklands: The secretary read a letter from the Town Clerk setting out a proposal by the Trustees of the Newton King Estate whereby they offered an area of about 46 acres including Brooklands in satisfaction of the Bequest made in the will of the late Newton King to Pukekura Park Board, Kawarua Park and East End. It was resolved that Messrs. J. McLeod and C. E. Bellringer be the Board's representatives on the joint committee of the parties interested to discuss the matter.

**TH, MAY 10, 1933
IN PUKEKURA PARK**

**Work at the Lakes
DISPOSAL OF SILT**

ALTERATIONS TO LILY POND.

Since the lower lake in Pukekura Park was emptied work has been progressing well with the removal of the silt, and although it is estimated that the work will not be completed until after the winter, much has already been done.

The great problem facing the park superintendent, Mr. T. H. Horton, is the disposal of the silt and decayed vegetation which is removed. Much of it has been used on the flower beds. The beds near the lower lake have been covered to a depth of about six inches, and some of the silt is also doing work which has previously been a problem to the superintendent. At the top end of the lily lake a weed, water couch grass, has for some time been rampant. It was uncontrollable and in recent months has encroached considerably on the pond, killing some of the lily plants and becoming unsightly. The emptying of the lower lake and the removal of the silt has now provided the solution. A sod wall has been erected across the lake about five yards from the top end and the part closed off is being filled with the silt. When that part of the lake is filled in the level of the grassy plot between the old hatchery and the edge of the pond

will be raised by more than two feet. The area previously has been very damp and it is now hoped to provide a place for picnic parties.

A LONG TASK.

In some places over two feet of silt has to be removed before the true lake bed is reached and as the work can be done only with shovels and barrows the task is a long one. It is estimated that many hundreds of tons will be removed within the next few months.

Running across the bed of the lake from the direction of the southern terrace to the outlet of the lake there has been uncovered a six-inch glazed pipeline. It was obviously laid to last, for the points are all securely cemented. The superintendent told a Taranaki Herald reporter this morning that despite inquiries he had been unable to find anything definite about the history of the pipe line. His version, however, is that when the formation of the sportsground was first mooted there was, running across what was later to be the playing field, a small creek. This was diverted into the pipe line near the horseshoe corner and led around and away from the ground. In later years the lake was dug out, the bottom being on the level of the pipes. Since then the lake has not been emptied and in the years which have passed silt to a depth of over two feet in places has settled on the pipe line.

LOGS ON BOTTOM.

Further up the lake seventeen logs of varying sizes lie on the bottom. They are mostly pines and have obviously been there many years. Proof of this is provided by the fact that there is nowhere along the bank sufficient space between the trees for these to have been rolled in, and so they must have found their way into the pond before the planting of the very old pungas and other trees which line the bank.

When the lake was formed the island in the centre was considerably larger than it is to-day. The action of the water and the grubbing of the ducks have continually removed the soil until it is now very small. When the cleaning out of the bottom of the lake is completed this island will be enlarged. It is planned to erect a wall of punga around it six feet from the present bank. The space will then be filled with spoil from the lake bed and the island replanted with native trees. Three hundred punga will be required for the work.

TH, JUNE 14, 1933

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING MR. J. McLEOD ELECTED CHAIRMAN.

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night, when there were present: Messrs. J. McLeod (chairman), E. Gilmour, F. Amooore, W. Short, C. E. Bellringer, V. C. Davies, F. Parker, H. Dempsey, P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary). The sitting chairman, Mr. F. Amooore, resigned office after nine years and Mr. J. McLeod was elected to the position unopposed.

The newly-elected Mayor (Mr. E. Gilmour) spoke appreciatively of the

work of the retiring chairman, Mr. F. Amooore. The honorary secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, and Mr. C. E. Bellringer also eulogised Mr. Amooore's work. Mr. Amooore suitably replied.

Mr. E. J. Carr was appointed a member of the park board to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. R. W. Tate.

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported that debris and silt had been removed from the lower lake during the month. To expedite the work, the permanent staff, relief workers and returned soldiers had all been employed. The amount of spoil removed and that remaining to be shifted was, amazing. It represented an accumulation over a period of 43 years. Planks, wheelbarrows, shovels and forks for the work had been hired. The spoil was being removed without cost to the board, its disposal having been advertised. The island was being enlarged, while the water was out of the lake. That work was necessary as the island was dwindling away and the rewarewa tree would soon have come down. To hold the new bank or island face in position a punga wall had been erected, steel bands being used to bind it together. The pressure from inside made the use of bands necessary. Three hundred punga had been used in the work. When completed the island would be a permanent and substantial improvement to the lake and a good nesting place for the water fowl. In the spring, native trees and hydrangeas would be planted.

The gale on May 25 and 26 was the worst since he had been at the park, continued Mr. Horton. Leaves, branches and rubbish of all descriptions littered the park. Some trees were badly broken, but no large one came down.

A new entrance had been made at the Brooklands Road corner, the formation of a footpath at a higher level than previously making that work necessary. Shingle was required to metal the paths round the lakes and for use where the paths were dangerously slippery. New concrete steps had been formed on the eastern terrace, by the sports committee. It was suggested that a pohutukawa hedge should be planted along the front of the Fillis Street gully section.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Noted were the deaths of Robert Mace who was a curator of the park in the early 1900s, also that of Charles Score Sanders.

The board was advised that under the will of Mr. P. J. Flanagan an annuity of £50 per annum for 21 years had been provided for.

re Estate Newton King. A Subcommittee through Mr. C. E. Bellringer report a discussion that had taken place at the Conference held with the Trustees together with representatives of the Borough Council, Kawaroa Park and East End committees, and it was unanimously resolved that this Board agrees to forego its Legacy under the will of the late Newton King provided Brooklands Estate comprising

approximately 46.75 acres is handed over to the Borough for public purposes.

TH, JUNE 15, 1933

PUBLIC GENEROSITY LATE MR. CHARLES SANDERS CONSIDERABLE BEQUESTS MADE LARGE SUM TO PUKEKURA PARRK.

Great public generosity is shown in the will of the late Mr. Charles Score Sanders, retired farmer of Westown, New Plymouth, who died here on June 1. Mr. Sanders was formerly the owner of the famed Ngaere gardens and for many years had had a beautiful private garden at Westown. The following bequests are made by the will, the executor of which is the Public Trustee:

—
£1000 to the Western Park Board, New Plymouth, for the general purposes thereof.

£500 to the controlling board for Reserve "T," New Plymouth, for the general purposes thereof.

£350 to the New Plymouth Borough Council for enlargement and improvement of the rhododendron dell in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, Messrs. Arthur Dennie Walker and V. C. Davies to act with the Borough Council in this connection.

£250 to the Trustees of the New Zealand Division of the British Empire Cancer Campaign for the general purposes thereof.

£250 to the Public Hospital, Stratford, for the general purposes thereof.

After providing for legacies and bequests of a private nature and payment of the usual duties and charges, the Trustee is directed to stand possessed of the residue of the estate upon trust for the purposes of such permanent improvements to Pukekura Park as shall be of benefit to the public. It is anticipated that the residue will amount to a considerable sum, well into the four figure mark.

LOVER OF NATURE.

These bequests made by Mr. Sanders illustrate his great love of Nature, evident throughout his whole life, first in the converting of virgin bush land into the beautiful Ngaere gardens and later in his private garden at Westown. This was one of the finest private gardens in the district and contained many rare plants, shrubs and trees. At Westown he displayed a particular interest in rhododendrons and his bequest to the "dell" at Pukekura Park evidences this. In addition he is understood to have left some choice rhododendron shrubs to the park. By his bequests to Western. Park and to Reserve T (better known as the Tukapo sportsground) Mr. Sanders has remembered the district in which he lived. After private bequests have been made the residue of the estate will go to Pukekura Park. It may be some little time before this sum is available but it is anticipated that the amount involved will be large.

TH, JULY 15, 1933

**LOWER LAKE REFILLED
2350 TONS OF SILT REMOVED
PRAISE FOR RELIEF WORKERS.**

"There is no happier man in New Plymouth to-day than me, to think that by an extraordinary effort by all hands the work was completed and the lake will be filled for the week-end," said Mr. T. Horton, Pukekura Park superintendent, this morning when speaking to a Taranaki Herald reporter in connection with the clearing of the lower lake.

The outlet was dammed up at 2 p.m. yesterday, he continued, and the lake immediately commenced to fill. He had anticipated that it would not be full until Sunday afternoon but, the inflow streams having been considerably swollen by the rains, it appeared likely that the lake would be full by 4 p.m. to-day.

Yesterday a motor break-down truck was requisitioned and 30 large logs, which have lain on the bed of the lake for many years, were removed. Half of the water lilies have been taken from their lake and a strip between six and eight feet wide has been cleared around the sides of the lake. This strip was mostly silt which had accumulating for many years. Mr. Horton expressed the hope that next season the lilies would be much better, as they now had more room for growing and would thus produce better blooms. Previously they had been so crowded that they were deteriorating fast. He looked upon the cleaning of the two lakes as one of the most important works accomplished in the park for some years.

Approximately 2350 tons of mud and slush was removed from the lower lake and of this 1100 tons were carted to the Fitzroy golf links and Rugby Park. Private people took about 250 tons and probably 1000 tons were used in the park for such purposes as top-dressing flower beds and filling a depression at the top end of the water lily pond. The work of removing the silt from the bed of the lower lake actually commenced on April 24, although the lake had been draining for a week previously.

Mr. Horton had nothing but the highest praise for the men who carried out the big task—relief workers, assisted by the permanent staff of the park. "So much has been said about the inefficiency of the relief worker," said Mr. Horton, "that I can only say that they worked wonderfully well throughout. They had mud and slush in front of them, behind them, to the left, and to the right, and yet I never heard a complaint." He was sure that the men felt that they were doing a work which would be a permanent improvement to the park.

TH, JULY 21, 1933

**WORK APPRECIATED
CLEANING LAKE IN PARK
RELIEF WORKERS ENTERTAINED.
FURTHER WORK APPROVED.**

At a gathering yesterday afternoon of the relief workers who had been engaged on the work of cleaning the lower lake in

Pukekura Park, when they and their wives were the guests, at afternoon tea, of Mr. T. Horton (superintendent of the park) and Mrs. Horton, it was announced that the gang was to be kept together and that further work was to be provided for them by the Park Board, who very sincerely appreciated the manner in which the men had carried out what was a very heavy and in some respects disagreeable job.

Associated with the host and hostess of the afternoon were the Mayor of New Plymouth (Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour), Mr. J. McLeod (chairman of Pukekura Park Board), Mr. P. E. Stainton (secretary), and Mr. E. J. Carr (a member of the board).

With the exception of one man, for whose absence an apology was tendered, all the men who had been engaged in the work were present, together with their wives, and a happy time was spent.

A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT.

Mr. Horton said he and Mrs. Horton were pleased and proud to have the men and their wives as their guests to commemorate the work they had done in cleaning out the lower lake and the lily pond. When the work was first put in hand he knew it would be a long and arduous job, and a very dirty undertaking. He wondered what sort of men he would get for the job, and whether they would stick it. It was now completed, to the satisfaction of the board and himself, and when he thought of the amount of debris they had shifted, during rainy weather, and the greasy nature of the planking over which they had to wheel the spoil, he was amazed that not one man had jibbed on the work.

He knew the relief workers had been subjected to much criticism and some people had said they were good for nothing, but he had found the men sent to him had no fault of which he wished to complain, either as to the manner in which they had worked or behaved themselves. There was one thing which he very much disliked, and that was bad language. The men may have sworn at the work sometimes, and he could scarcely blame them if they had; but he had not heard them, and in a park to which so many visitors, both young and old, came, he had had no complaint on that score against the men. He congratulated them on their general conduct while working in the park. He knew there were among them men of various occupations, but they all went into this muddy job as it they had been used to it all their lives. He never thought they would all stick it, but they stuck to it and saw it through, and it was a credit to them.

As near as he could estimate it the fourteen had moved 2350 tons of mud, on 50 working days. Eleven of the men had worked on two days a week and three had had three days' work per week. They had had some help from returned soldiers at some stage of the job, and the wages paid to the men during the time they had been there amounted to about £200. They had cleared away the mud

and debris that had been accumulating for 43 years.

Mr. Horton concluded by expressing a hope that economic conditions would improve so that these might be able to go back to their ordinary occupations in the not distant future. In the meantime he hoped that the gang would be kept together so that further work that was contemplated could be carried out. He was very proud of the men and the way they had stuck to this job.

CHAIRMAN'S APPRECIATION.

Mr. McLeod supplemented Mr. Horton's remarks of appreciation of the manner in which the men had carried out what was an unpleasant task, and on behalf of the board he thanked them. He said he thought that perhaps the fact that the men were doing something for a park which belonged to the people, and in part to themselves, had something to do with bringing the best out of them. He also hoped conditions would soon improve so that these men could get back into their ordinary channels of occupation. The gang would be kept together and after next Tuesday they would be put to work on other work in the vicinity of that which they had just completed, and it would be work of a less dirty nature.

He recognised that the relief worker had come in for a general amount of abuse; he did not know why; but he regretted the conditions which made it necessary for any man to register as unemployed. He hoped the time would soon come when that sort of thing could be eliminated. It was no use countries waiting to see what other countries were going to do, and what conferences would do for them before setting about putting their own affairs in order. It should be possible, and he believed it was possible, to find employment for all men who would work, and at proper rates of pay, and he thought the coming year would see a great improvement in general conditions. In conclusion he repeated that the Park Board very much appreciated what the men had done under very dirty conditions.

At the call of Mr. Stainton, the men sang "For they are jolly good fellows," and gave cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Horton.

Mr. A. G. Clarke replied on behalf of the men, and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Horton for entertaining them, and the speakers for their expressions of appreciation of the men's work. He said Mr. Horton understood that all of them were not used to that class of work, and when he set them to it he did not expect them to do what experienced labourers would do, and he advised them to fill their barrows according to their ability. They appreciated his attitude towards them, and if more of them in charge of relief workers were of his type there would be no trouble among them.

Mr. Horton thanked the men for the remarks concerning himself, and he said he was happy to know that the gang was to be kept together, and he intimated to the men that they should present themselves for work as usual on Tuesday morning next.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 1, 1933
RHODODENDRONS IN PARK
NEW DELL PROPOSED.**

BEST IN SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

It is the professed aim of the Pukekura Park Board to make its proposed new rhododendron dell the best in the Southern Hemisphere, and with that in view rare plants to the value of £100 are to be purchased in England. A sub-committee comprising Messrs. J. McLeod, V. C. Davies, F. Parker, and the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) was last night appointed to select the plants and also to compile a list of the desired plants available in New Zealand. The money to be spent is part of the £350 bequeathed to the park for this purpose by the late Mr. Charles Sanders. The trustees of the estate are Messrs. V. C. Davies and A. D. Walker.

Mr. Davies stated that the money would be available very shortly and the present dell was totally inadequate for the proposals. A certain area had been selected, but if that could not be utilised some other new area would have to be allotted. The area selected was ideal, as it gave perfect shelter and was easily accessible. The excellent volcanic soil would be found in few other places. With such fine conditions it was natural that they should want the best rhododendrons procurable. Excellent plants could be procured in New Zealand, but there were very many others. Imported plants should arrive here in December, and so should be ordered very shortly. He would recommend the purchase of small plants as they would have to be shipped in cool storage and their smallness would save freight charges. He was sure they were all anxious to make the new dell the best in the Southern Hemisphere. In the proposed position tropical plants and plants from high altitudes could be grown with the greatest of success. When the plants arrived in New Zealand they should be planted temporarily in a private garden as, if they were placed in the park immediately, it was certain that many would be stolen.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 1, 1933
PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S VIEW
DELIGHT AT SPLENDID GIFT
INDICATIONS OF PROPOSED WORK.**

Some indication of the first steps that may be taken to link Pukekura Park and Brooklands and to beautify the land between the top park lake and the Brooklands homestead were given by Mr. T. H. Horton F.R.H.S., superintendent of Pukekura Park, when interviewed concerning the gift to the town.

"I am delighted to know that this valuable property is being handed over to the New Plymouth borough," he said. "It will be a wonderful asset to the town and district and a fine addition to Pukekura Park. Future generations will be forever grateful to those responsible for its preservation as a park for the people."

"Its native bush area," he continued, "with such historic and memorable trees as the old puriris and others is

unsurpassed in Taranaki. Not only will the gift mean the preservation of the native bush but it will also safeguard the especially fine exotic trees that are a feature of the grounds." These included the old chestnut, which had been the admiration of all privileged to see it, the "Araocaria Excelsa," the copper beech, a wonderful macrocarpa and other conifera. All were glorious specimens, whose beauty was not exceeded by similar trees in this country. Among all the wonderful chestnut trees to be found at Home, Mr. Horton had never seen one with so great a spread as the Brooklands tree.

CLEANING OF LAKE NEEDED.

By reason of its beauty in many ways Brooklands should attract thousands of visitors. The lawns, flower-beds and the lake were among its special features. Mr. Horton described as truly wonderful the rhododendrons, camellias, azalea mollis and other flowering shrubs, while he said that the lake was especially beautiful when the water-lilies were in full bloom. The native bush on the eastern face grows right down to the water's edge. "It makes one shudder to think what might have happened had this property been cut up or otherwise disposed of," he said. Discussing the question of what might be done with Brooklands to link it up with the park and put it in good order, Mr. Horton said that in some portions considerable work would be needed, while maintenance in itself would be no light task.

One of the first works to be undertaken would be the cleaning out of the lake. Here there was an accumulation of silt and rubbish, also large patches of giant reed, which would have to be removed before the water was again allowed in. Such strong and powerful root growth has this species of reed that it will require the use of explosives to completely eradicate it.

On the western side of the lake gorse, blackberry, fern and fennel were growing thickly and it would be necessary to remove all this fairly promptly, as it would require a great deal of labour if allowed to grow for another season. Gorse, broom and fern was coming away thickly in some of the open spaces and this would need to be dealt with promptly.

CONNECTIONS WITH PUKEKURA PARK.

To connect Brooklands with Pukekura Park Mr. Horton considers that the native bush walk in the park should be continued straight on through the bush on the eastern side of the lake as far as the bridge over the lake and that another path should run up the western side of the lake. These paths would lead to a lovely basin of approximately one acre in area, which was eminently suitable for a rhododendron dell. The two paths mentioned, together with another on the western hillside, extending on from the Totara Hill walk in Pukekura Park could be made to converge near the lawn in front of the homestead.

Reference was also made by Mr. Horton to the waterlogged area of about a quarter of an acre lying between the upper reaches of the top park lake and

the Brooklands lake. He could visualise this, cleared of raupo and gorse now growing there, and converted into a sunken or bog garden which would make a most attractive link between the two Lakes.

Even now, the native bush area at Brooklands was much more valuable and attractive than those in the park, said Mr. Horton. It would be imperative to see that this area was well protected by suitable shelter on the west and southern boundaries and to punish severely any vandalism that might be detected.

Undoubtedly, he concluded, there were great possibilities at Brooklands. In addition to those he had mentioned other improvements suggested themselves and a further minute inspection might bring further ideas.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 1, 1933
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
MAINTENANCE WORK DONE.**

There were present at a meeting of the Pukekura Park Board last night Messrs. J. McLeod (chairman), E. R. C. Gilmour, H. Dempsey, F. Amooore, V. C. Davies, C. E. Bellringer, E. J. Carr, F. Parker, and the honorary secretary (Mr. P. E. Stainton). An apology was received from Mr. W. F. Short.

The chairman welcomed Mr. E. J. Carr to the board.

The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that during the month the cleaning of the lower lake had been completed and the lake was again full. Many of the fish which had been put into a small stream had been caught and returned to the lake. The lily lake had also been cleaned and the lilies thinned out. A concrete outlet for the overflow of water from the lily lake had been constructed and a puna railing erected. About 70 pungas had been planted in the gaps on the banks of the two lakes. The island had been planted with about 50 trees, and paths had been regraded and metalled.

The roses both in the beds and on the pergolas had all been pruned. About fifty yards of silt had been removed from the dam near the Brooklands corner.

Most of the trees planted during recent years had been dug around to ensure successful growth. The rhododendron and azalea dells had been attended to, and pruning, manuring, and digging had been done. The wattles which were overhanging the path on the western side of the main entrance had been cut, and the face of the hill at the eastern end of the iron fence had been cut back to allow room for the planting of a hedge.

A belt of pohutukawas had been planted along the fence line on the flat and this would be extended to the boundary. Thanks were due to Messrs. Duncan and Davies for a donation of azaleas and to Mr. R. W. Davies for a donation of fifty pungas. The rhododendron "grande," bequeathed to the park by the late Mr. C. Sanders, had been received and planted temporarily in one of the beds near the fernery. It was in good condition, and was just coming into bloom. General maintenance work had been carried out

and the park and sportsground were generally in good condition.

**TH, NOVEMBER 22, 1933
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Pukekura Park Board met last night, when there were present: Messrs. J. McLeod (chairman), H. Dempsey, F. Amoores, V. C. Davies, W. F. Short, C. E. Bellringer, E. Carr, F. Parker, E. R. C. Gilmour, P. E. Stainton (hon. sec.), T. H. Horton (superintendent).

The superintendent reported on cleaning work done in the park. A new pipe line from the large lake to the waterfall by the old hatchery was laid to replace old drains. Grass seed was sown on the newly filled-in area by the large water lily lake and had struck splendidly. The area promised to be suitable for picnic parties and should be ready for use by Christmas. The imitation marble tables presented to the board some time ago were being erected near the tea house. On the sports grounds manuring and seed-sowing and top-dressing had been done, the cricket pitches put in order, and the terraces attended to. This part of the board's property was in excellent condition.

A request by a fireworks display company to stage an exhibition in the park on the night of the first day of the autumn race meeting in February was agreed to.

Attention was drawn by Mr. Bellringer to the diminishing height of the waterfall, the top of which was being gradually worn down. Mr. Horton was instructed to build up the stream bed where the fall started in the best way possible.

Mr. Davies reported on the activities of the committee set up to consider the planting of a rhododendron dell and detailed the various varieties which could be obtained in Taranaki, in New Zealand and abroad. The question of obtaining further plants was again referred to the committee.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Re Brooklands: It was resolved that the superintendent in conjunction with Mr. T. Boulton, be requested to submit a comprehensive report on planting and development in connection with Brooklands,

Re Wiggins Memorial: The question of repairing or removing the monument was discussed, nothing decided.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 12, 1933
BEAUTIFUL "BROOKLANDS"
IMPROVEMENTS COMMENCED
THE LAKE CLEANED OUT
GELIGNITE REMOVES WEEDS.**

Although the beautiful "Brooklands" property has not yet been officially handed over to the New Plymouth Borough Council a great deal of work has already been done in the direction of improving the property, and for the past six weeks a gang of relief workers has been engaged. Most of the work has been done in and about the lake, which size is about four times as large as the lower lake in Pukekura Park. The lake has been draining through the winter in

order that it might be sufficiently dry for the work to be carried on.

The surroundings of the lake, which lately have become rather overgrown, have been cleared. A heavy growth of fern, blackberry and gorse had developed and this has been removed and burnt.

The hydrangeas on the bank have been pruned and all the dead growth and under-scrub near the lake edge cleared out.

The lake itself was in a bad condition with bulrushes. This particular type is very strong and rampant grower, the roots creeping along the ground, similar to the bamboo. In place it was smothering the beautiful patches of waterlily and the workmen were faced with a difficult problem in their removal. Gelignite was resorted to and this did its work well. The weed was removed and stacked to rot. It will later be used as fertiliser. A fair quantity of silt deposited by the feeder streams has also been removed.

The blasting operations had the effect of injuring some of the waterlily plants but the patches were so big that the loss of a few plants will make no difference. Water was allowed to run into the lake again this morning, but it is anticipated that it will require a week for the normal level to be reached as the feeder streams are very low at present.

**TH, NOVEMBER 22, 1933
RETURNS FROM FERNERY.**

The 10,000 tickets provided by the Pukekura Park Board last year for sale at the fernery have all been disposed of and over 1000 of the new issue have been sold, according to a report submitted to the board by the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) last night. The takings for the winter months were about £10 more than for the same period last year.

**TH, DECEMBER 2, 1933
BROOKLANDS FOR BOROUGH
VESTED IN COUNCIL
ACT PASSED BY PARLIAMENT
ADDITIONAL RECREATION
RESERVE.**

A copy of the Act of Parliament authorising the vesting of the Brooklands (Newton King) estate in the Borough of New Plymouth, has been received by the town clerk, and as soon as the Bill receives the assent of the Governor-General it comes into force. That is usually done very soon after a Bill is passed by the Legislature.

A condition contained in the Bill is that as soon as the Act is passed the property is to be held in trust by the Council or the Borough of New Plymouth as recreation reserve. Until the Act receives the Governor-Generals signature the estate is held in trust by the trustees for the council.

The matter will come before the Borough Council on Monday night, when a decision will probably be reached as to when Brooklands will be thrown open to the public, and arrangements set in train for an official ceremony. It is not yet open to the

public, but it is hoped that matters may be completed in time to make the grounds available for the Christmas holiday season. It may take some time to get the formalities completed necessary for the vesting of the title to the property in the Borough Council.

"Brooklands," for many, many years the beautiful home of the late Mr. Newton King, now becomes the property of the Borough of New Plymouth. Comprising some 53 acres or lawn, garden and native bush reserve, "Brooklands" has been one of the finest private residences in New Zealand.

Under the terms of the will of the late Mr. Newton King, who died in 1927, varying amounts totalling £7000 were bequeathed to New Plymouth reserves as follows: Pukekura Park, £3000; East End Reserve, £2000; Kawaroa Park £2000. With the consent of beneficiaries interested under the terms of the will, the trustees offered the valuable "Brooklands" property in complete fulfilment of the terms of the will in respect of these three reserves. This was a very generous action and, having made satisfactory arrangements with the Kawaroa and East End committees, the New Plymouth Borough Council was able to accept "Brooklands" to be placed under the control of the Pukekura Park Board.

The area of the property is 53 acres 1 rood 19 perches, on being taken over by the council it will be under the control of the Pukekura Park Board. The property adjoins the park and stretches to the back of the bush reserve.

The gift, which will be a source of gratification to townspeople, will considerably enhance the attractions of Pukekura Park. The committees of the Kawaroa Park and East End Reserve have generously sacrificed their interests in the estate in order that the town as a whole may benefit.

**TH, DECEMBER 21, 1933
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
"BROOKLANDS" OPEN
PUBLIC ADMITTED SATURDAY
PUKEKURA PARK ACQUISITION
BOARD LEGALLY TAKES CONTROL.**

The beautiful "Brooklands" property, the home of the late Mr. Newton King, will be open to the public from Saturday at noon, the Pukekura Park Board having decided to take control from that time conditional upon legal formalities being concluded. Various matters concerning the property were dealt with at last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board and this morning Messrs. P. E. Stainton, E. King and F. Amoores visited the property, when the decision that the grounds should be open to the public from Saturday was reached.

There were present at last night's meeting Messrs. J. McLeod (chairman), E. R. C. Gilmour, F. Amoores, H. Dempsey, E. King, W. F. Short, V. C. Davies, C. E. Bellringer, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. An apology for absence was received from Mr. F. Parker.

Mr. King was welcomed to the board by Mr. McLeod. "I am very pleased that the Borough Council has seen fit to increase the membership of the board," said Mr. McLeod, "and I think that the appointment of Mr. King at a time when the board is taking over the "Brooklands" property is most appropriate. The full benefit of the development of the property will be felt with Mr. King on the board."

He appreciated the appointment, said Mr. King. The handing over of the property was a break for the family individually, but they appreciated the appointment of a member of the family to the board.

An insurance company offered earthquake risk in addition to the fire cover already held on the houses at

"Brooklands," but the board decided that such was unnecessary. The present policy expired on July 23, 1934, said the secretary, and the risk may then be taken in the Borough Council comprehensive policy.

After a short discussion, during which it was suggested that the property recently acquired by Pukekura Park should be named "Brooklands Bush," it was decided that the name should remain "Brooklands." The perpetuation of the name of the late Mr. Newton King was deferred until the use to which the home is to be put is decided.

A number of regulations were drawn up until permanent supervision is instituted. Cars will not be allowed to enter the grounds, the big gate being kept locked, and no person may remain in the grounds

after 7 p.m. Under no circumstances will dogs be allowed in the property owing to the danger to bird life. Visitors are required to keep strictly to the defined tracks, particularly in the bush, which would soon be destroyed by persons wandering off the paths.

The historic puriri and two other trees are to be surrounded by a protective fence.

A special watch is to be kept for the possibility of visitors lighting fires, this is absolutely prohibited.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Services of Tom Boulton: At the request of the Borough Council and also the Trustees of the Newton King Estate, it was unanimously agreed that the services of Tom Boulton be retained.



Brooklands glass houses behind a wisteria and rose arbor which are still in the park today. The glass houses were moved to the site of the fernery in the late 1930s. (private collection, Adrienne Tatham)

1934

The official handing over of Brooklands to the borough on March 10 was an historic day and a full account of the event can be read in pages following. As well as Brooklands, parts of the Highlands estate (Maranui Gully) belonging to the T. C. List and C. W. Wilkinson were also gifted to the Borough, however, it would appear that this piece of land did not become officially part of the park until 1944.

Trying to incorporate Brooklands into the park was a big task. The estate was a bit rundown; it had been seven years since the passing of Newton King. There were several buildings including the family home that the park committee had to decide the fate of. Fences needed repairing, the driveway need upgrading, paths needed to be made to connect Brooklands to Pukekura Park and it needed connecting to the town's sewerage system. The buildings included: The family homestead, The Gables, the bungalow, the vinery, conservatory, and begonia house, propagating house, potting shed, motor garage and the old stables and barn. The old stables and barn were the first to go. After long discussions the homestead, which in its day was a magnificent house was deemed unusable in the park setting and went up for auction for removal.

In recognition of the long service of R. C. Hughes the committee invited him to plant a kauri in the park. The site chosen was in the lawn on a newly reclaimed piece of land in front of the old hatchery building. The park committee members attended the ceremony as well as Mr Hughes' wife. Unfortunately, the location, that had been part of the lily pond before being reclaimed with silt from the lower lake did not suit the kauri and it was removed in the 1950s as it was dying.

When the committee received the Sanders bequest of £350 for a rhododendron dell, they had chosen a location in Brooklands in front of the old homestead. It was pointed out that the bequest stated that the dell was to be in Pukekura Park, so it was planted on the site of the old maze where it remains today.

The spade that was used by Miss Jane Carrington on the opening day of the park in 1876 was returned to the park by Mr. Harry Wood of Eltham and hung in the kiosk.

It seems that the planting of the Fillis Street reserve started on September 5, when Horton recorded in his diary, "In Fillis St. gully all day. Took load of trees there & rec'd coll of rare native trees from D & D."



An historic gathering of park curators and administrators on March 10, 1934
Left to right. Back Row: Tom Boulton, Brooklands head gardener; Tom Horton, Park superintendent 1924 – 1949. Front Row: James McLeod, board member 1922 – 1943, Robert Clinton Hughes, board member 1875 – 1935 and William Walter Smith, curator 1908 – 1920. (private collection, Warwick Horton)

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
PUKEKURA PARK COMMITTEE**

Held in the Council Chambers on
9/1/1934 at 7.30p.n.

Present: J. McLeod (chair) H. Dempsey, F. Amore, V. C. Davies, W. Short, C. E. Bellringer, E. J. Carr, F. Parker, E. R. C. Gilmour, and T. Horton, Superintendent. Apologies were received from P. E. Stainton, E. King, and R. C. Hughes.

Finance: Credit Balance as at 31/12/33 of 43 4s 4d. Also that the balance of Saunders Bequest £87 10s had been received, and the total sum £350 had been deposited in a separate account with the P. O. Savings Bank.

BROOKLANDS: The special report of Messrs. Horton and Boulton was received and read, and dealt with *seriatim* as follows:

FENCES: Authorised at previous meeting.

DIVIDING FENCES: Agreed to, fence in front of homestead to be immediately attended to.

ORCHARD: Agreed to.

PARKING SITE: Consideration deferred with a view to conferring with Mr. R. Day, Traffic Inspector.

SHELTER BELT: Agreed to.

Bush Paths and Tracks: Agreed to, with the addition that prominent and distinctive trees be named neatly.

VEGETABLE ETC: Agreed to

BUILDING: Motor Garage near gate, removal agreed to, work to be carried out under supervision of Mr. Amore. Old Stables and Barn: The action of the Chairman in calling for tenders for demolition and removal of these buildings was confirmed. Seven tenders were received ranging from £8 10s to £26, the latter's, H. Gardner, being accepted. Conservatory: Agreed to, also superintendent's action in providing a donation box.

SEPTIC TANK: Resolved to request the Borough Council to provide for sewerage of the property, and that Public Conveniences be provided as early as possible. The superintendent reported that temporary provision had been made.

DRIVE AND PATHS: It was resolved to ask the Borough Council to have the public and private road from Brooklands Road to the entrance put in order.

LAWNS: Agreed to, notices regarding wheeled traffic on lawns to be erected.

FIRES: Agreed to, and it was decided that facilities for boiling water be made in the Parking area.

PADDOCKS: Agreed to.

LAKE: Agreed to.

RHODODENDRONS: It having been reported that the question of the Saunders bequest being available for Brooklands was in doubt, owing to the donor having specifically mentioned "Pukekura Park", it was decided to confer with the Borough Solicitor with a view to having the spending of the bequest in Brooklands legalised. It was further decided to add the name of Mr. A. D. Walker to the Rhodo. Sub-committee, and to have a full meeting of the committee as early as possible with a

view to definitely fixing the area of the site.

Recommendations otherwise agreed to.

PATHS: Authorised.

CATTLE: It was decided that there be no further letting of grazing for cattle, and that when available sheep be grazed in the paddocks.

On the motion of Mr. Bellringer and Mr. Amore the report as a whole and as amended was adopted, Messrs. Horton and Boulton to be thanked for its preparation.

BYE LAWS: The Town Clerk submitted a schedule of suggested Byelaws for the control of Brooklands for the consideration of the Board. These were approved of with the following amending suggestions:

(A) That fires be prohibited excepting where special provision is made for them.

(B) That prohibition of use of lawns apply to cycles, prams and wheeled vehicles generally, not to pedestrians.

(C) That the time when the grounds are available to the public be between 6 a.m. and half an hour after sunset.

It was decided to request the Borough Solicitor to make a summary of such byelaws respecting Brookland as are most vital, with a view to having these prominently exhibited at the entrance etc.

OPENING DATE: The Chairman, Messrs. Dempsey, Bellringer, Amore and Carr were appointed a committee to consider the question of fixing date for official opening, and the general arrangements, and to report to a special meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: This was adopted on the motion of Messrs. Amore and Carr.

Lodge Cottage. Mr. Horton was authorised to arrange for the procuring of copper and tubs for this house.

**TH, JANUARY 10, 1934
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
ACCESS TO BROOKLANDS
"HIGHLANDS" NATIVE BUSH
DEDICATED TO BOROUGH
WHOLE VALLEY NOW RESERVE.**

There is to be continuous access from Pukekura Park to the recently presented Brooklands estate, Mr. J. McLeod, chairman of the Pukekura Park Board, announced at a meeting of the board last night, This has been made possible by the dedication to the borough of the native bush portion of the Highlands estate, owned by Messrs. T. C. List and C. A. Wilkinson, M.P. The dedicated property is contiguous to Brooklands and is about nine acres in area.

The three properties of Pukekura Park, Brooklands and Highlands will form a magnificent scenic reserve. In time uninterrupted walks and drives from New Plymouth will be possible for a mile up to Upjohn Street, which joins Brooklands Road and Avenue Road, near the junction of the latter with Tarahua Road. Entrances to the dedicated property are to be made at the junction of Upjohn Street and Avenue Road and from Avenue Road where the old Richards' homestead stood before

this estate was cut up. The land necessary for these entrances has also been dedicated to the borough.

**TH, JANUARY 30, 1934
OPENING BROOKLANDS
OFFICIAL CEREMONY.
INVITATION TO GOVERNOR-
GENERAL.
PUBLIC GARDEN PARTY.**

It is proposed that the official opening of Brooklands be held on Saturday, March 10 and the Governor-General be invited to perform the ceremony.

This decision was made by the New Plymouth Borough Council last night, at the suggestion of the sub-committee of the Pukekura Park Board appointed to deal with the matter. The Park Board is prepared to arrange a public garden party and an appropriate entertainment programme on the occasion of the opening ceremony.

In a letter to the council last night the Park Board suggested that if possible negotiations regarding the ultimate disposal of the homestead should be expedited with a view to having the ceremony of handing over the homestead to its new owners carried out at the same time.

It was stated temporary conveniences had been erected, the board requested the council to consider the question of connecting the sewerage system to the Brooklands property, as the septic tank system at the house would have to be dispensed with as soon as possible.

The Brooklands branch and private roads were in a very bad condition, particularly for pedestrians, and the board suggested the council should put them in order as early as possible. The board had made arrangements for a suitable parking area at the main entrance, but proposed to confer with the traffic inspector before completing any work for this purpose.

Matters relating to the roads and sewer were referred to the works committee for consideration.

The Pukekura Park Board notified that it would be pleased to arrange for a sports and demonstration in Pukekura Park on Saturday, April 7 in aid of Brooklands.

**AUCK'D STAR, FEBRUARY 19,
1934**

COLLAPSE OF CRICKETER.

A cricketer, Edward Laurie Christian, collapsed and died while fielding in a cricket match at Pukekura Park yesterday. Mr. Christian, who was a married man, 33 years of age, with one child, was a clerk in the Railway Department.

**TH, FEBRUARY 27, 1934
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
BROOKLANDS OPENING
ARRANGEMENTS MADE
CEREMONY ON MARCH 10.**

Arrangements for the opening of the Brooklands Reserve by the Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, on March 10, were made at a meeting of the Pukekura Park Board held in New Plymouth last night. Present were: Messrs. J. McLeod

(chairman), P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary), E. R. C. Gilmour, H. Dempsey, F. Amooore, E. King, C. E. Bellringer and E. J. Carr. The town clerk, Mr. F. T. Bellringer, the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, and the chief borough inspector, Mr. R. Day, also attended.

The programme for the official opening of Brooklands by his Excellency the Governor-General was agreed upon subject to Lord Bledisloe's approval.

The various arrangements for the day were discussed.

The superintendent (Mr. T. H. Horton) reported that during the month a good portion of the work authorised at Brooklands had been put in hand. Boundary fences had been repaired and put in good order. New paths had been made giving access from Pukekura Park to Brooklands. The site agreed upon as a parking space near the main entrance had been cleared and levelled and was now ready for use. The temporary conveniences, sheds and gates were now being painted. The successful tenderer for the stables and barn had completed his work and most of the material was removed. Certain timber was retained for immediate use, and he recommended the purchase of a quantity. Borough workmen had made a start in putting the main roadway in order.

In the sportsground concrete steps were being put in by the sports committee on the western side leading to the terrace and the press stand. The park generally was in good condition.

A visitor to New Plymouth, wrote the town clerk, had drawn his attention the fact that boating on the lake at Pukekura Park ceases at 5 p.m. It was suggested that greater revenue would be obtained if the hours were altered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and if small boats were available for hire as on the River Avon at Christchurch.

Mr. A. D. Walker, Ngaere, wrote agreeing to join the sub-committee of board dealing with the park rhododendron dell.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

The chairman raised the question of having the correct boundaries of the park defined, and also the question of the exchange of certain land with the Jockey Club. It was resolved that a special committee consisting of Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (Convenor) E. King, E. J. Carr, and W. F. Short, be set up to go into this matter and report at a later meeting.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME:

The Chairman submitted proof copies of the official programme, and on the motion of Messrs. McLeod and Gilmour, it was resolved to have 1,500 copies printed, to be offered for sale at 1s each.

THE OFFICIAL LIST OF GUESTS.

The official list was prepared with the assistance of the Town Clerk, and the question of issuing invitations and making arrangements for afternoon tea for the official guests, was left in the hands of the Chairman and Secretary with the power to act.

RE H.M.S. "DUNEDIN".

The Town Clerk advised that the H.M.S. "Dunedin" would be in port on April 8th, and the commander indicated that a concert party from the ship would be prepared to give a concert on Sunday, April 8, at 8.15 p.m. The council had approved of an admission charge of 1s and 1s 6d being made. It was resolved that final arrangements in connection with this matter be gone into at a later date.

TELEPHONE AT "BROOKLANDS":

The secretary reported that the telephone was still connected, and it was resolved that no action be taken until after the official opening of "Brooklands", when the matter would be further considered.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE.

In connection with the official opening of "Brooklands" the following Grounds Committee was set up: Messrs. McLeod, Carr, Bellringer and Stainton.

The Superintendent's report was read.

Arising out of the report, the Superintendent was authorized to purchase from Mr. Gardiner a quantity of timber suitable for bridge repairs, etc. costing £3 10s.

A general discussion took place as to what should be done with the "Brooklands" house, and also the question of providing tennis and croquet lawns on the "Brooklands" property. It was resolved that this matter be held over meantime, but discussed further at the next meeting.

TH, MARCH 22, 1934

"BROOKLANDS" CHESTNUT

INTERESTING FACT RECALLED.

A correspondent, "Hortus," writing upon the giant Spanish chestnut tree at "Brooklands," "Much has been written about this fine tree; but no mention of another tree of the same family—in the vicinity—which, by this time, should be a fair size.

"It must be 45 years since Mr. Newton King employed the late Mr. J. Kidd, a landscape gardener of Inglewood, to supervise the laying out of his recently acquired property 'Brooklands.' Mr. King remarked to him that the large chestnut tree did not bear nuts, and Mr. Kidd in a sotto voce, and in an advising manner, said: 'Get a mate for it.' Mr. King, acting on this advice, did so, and the result was that the big tree did bear nuts.

"Here is a paragraph clipped, I think, from the Herald ten years ago which bears on the subject: 'In the July number of New Zealand Life and Forest Magazine there is a fine illustration of the giant Spanish chestnut tree in Mr. Newton King's beautiful grounds at "Brooklands." The actual dimensions of the tree, which was planted in 1846, are given as: Circumference of branches 279 feet, diameter of branches 93 feet, diameter of bole 5ft. 4in., and it covers nearly a quarter of an acre of ground. When Mr. King purchased the property some 30 odd years ago the tree would not bear nuts, but on the advice of Mr. Kidd, an old English gardener, he planted another tree of the same species in the vicinity. In three years he had a fine crop of nuts, and every year sees more.'

"Perhaps expert horticulturalist will tell us what part the 'mate' played in the fructification business."

PATEA MAIL, MARCH 29, 1934

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

PLANTING OF KAURI

BY MR. R. C. HUGHES.

CEREMONY AT PUKEKURA PARK.

More than half a century ago Mr. R. C. Hughes planted a tree in Pukekura Park and at a meeting of the board held yesterday afternoon he readily agreed to the request of his colleagues that he plant another tree next Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Hughes is the oldest member of the Park Board and latterly he has been unable to attend the meetings of the board which are generally held in the evening. His interest in the park is, however, just as keen as ever it was and seeing that yesterday's meeting was being held in the afternoon Mr. Hughes was present.

The chairman Mr. J. McLeod said how pleased members of the board were to have Mr. Hughes with them. They recognised he had not been able to attend night meetings and were glad it had been possible to arrange for an afternoon meeting at which he could be present. Mr. McLeod said there would be a meeting of the board at the park next Thursday afternoon and members would be delighted if Mr. Hughes would consent to plant another tree.

Mr. Hughes acknowledged the chairman's welcome and readily agreed to accede to the request to plant a tree.

It was decided that the to be planted should be kauri which will be presented by Mr. V. C. Davies.

TH, MARCH 29, 1934

SANDERS BEQUEST

RHODODENDRON DELL.

A special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the municipal offices yesterday afternoon, there being present: Messrs. J. McLeod (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker, V. C. Davies, E. King, F. Amooore, R. C. Hughes, P. E. Stainton (hon secretary), T. Horton (superintendent).

The chairman referred to the official opening of Brooklands and to the outstanding success of the gathering. Mr. McLeod spoke of the valued assistance rendered the board in connection with the gathering and said the secretary had written letters of appreciation. Special reference was made to the assistance of Pursers, Ltd.

A discussion ensued with reference to the late Mr. Charles S. Sanders bequest, the chairman intimating that it would be impossible to have the rhododendron dell at any other place than Pukekura Park. The original intention it was pointed out by Mr. McLeod was to set apart portion of the gully immediately in front of the residence at Brooklands as a site for the new rhododendron dell, but the position was that as Brooklands was not part of Pukekura Park the bequest could not be spent there.

Members discussed possible sites for the dell in Pukekura Park, but did not arrive

at any definite decision pending a further inspection of the sites suggested.

The point was stressed that steps should be taken to have Brooklands included in the park in order to avoid any possible difficulty arising in future.

It was explained that a special consignment of rhododendrons from Home—216 in all—would be arriving at New Plymouth in the course of a few days and the matter of planting them in a temporary position until they are acclimatised was left in the hands of Messrs. Davies and Horton to arrange.

A sports programme in connection with the visit of H.M.S. Dunedin is being arranged for Saturday afternoon, April 7, and a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. J. McLeod, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker, E. King, F. Amoore and E. J. Carr was appointed to arrange the programme.

A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. McLeod, Stainton, Amoore and Davies were appointed to make arrangements for the recital to be given by the ship's band on Sunday evening, April 8.

APRIL 5, 1934

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Held in the park Thursday April 5, 1934
PRESENT: - J. McLeod, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, R. C. Hughes, E. J. Carr, F. Amoore, F. Parker, H. Dempsey, P. E. Stainton (Hon. Secretary) T. Horton (superintendent).

The Chairman advised that the Board members desired to take the opportunity of honouring Mr. R. C. Hughes for his long and very efficient service in connection with the Pukekura Park, by asking him to plant a Kauri tree at the head of the lower lily pond. The Kauri tree was well and truly planted by Mr. Hughes, who returned thanks for the honour conferred on him, and his remarks were ably supported by his wife.

RHODODENDRON DELL

An inspection was made to select what was considered a most suitable site for the Sander Bequest Rhododendron Dell, and it was resolved that the Board recommend that the portion of ground known as the "Maze" adjoining "Brooklands" be used for this purpose.

FILLIS STREET GULLY

This portion of the ground was inspected, and it was resolved that a systematic planting be carried out in this area for specimen trees of native flora, and towards this end donations of trees to the value of £5 were made by Messrs. Duncan & Davies and C. E. Bellringer, for which the Board expressed its grateful thanks.

TH, APRIL 6, 1934

KAURI TREE PLANTED

UNIQUE CEREMONY AT PARK HONOUR FOR MR. R. C. HUGHES. LONG CONNECTION WITH BOARD.

Fifty-eight years ago, a ceremony took place at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, at which several trees were planted by a number or prominent citizens. Mr. R. C. Hughes planted a pinus radiata, Mrs. M. A. Hughes planted a rimu, Mr. Robert Hughes a puriri, Mrs. T. C. Skinner an English yew, and Mrs. Thon. Colson a

Norfolk Island pine. That ceremony took place on May 29, 1876, and yesterday, at the invitation of his colleagues on the Pukekura Park Board. Mr. R. C. Hughes planted a kauri tree donated by Mr. V. C. Davies.

The tree was planted by Mr. Hughes on the recently reclaimed ground at the head of the lily pond in the presence of Mrs. Hughes, and members of the park board and the park superintendent.

The site is in close proximity to the trees planted nearly sixty years ago. Today the pinus radiata planted by Mr. Hughes as a young nursery tree stands approximately 130 feet high and it is estimated that it contains between 4000 feet and 5000 feet of milling timber.

A GRACEFUL ACT.

It was a graceful act on the part of the Park Board to invite Mr. Hughes to perform the ceremony, which is probably unique for New Zealand. Mr. Hughes has always taken a keen and active interest in the development and control of Pukekura Park. As a member of the Taranaki Provincial Council, it was he who in 1875 moved that the sections remaining unsold should be set aside for botanical gardens. He was a foundation member of the park board and has been associated with it ever since.

Following the planting of the kauri Mr. J. McLeod, chairman of the park board, said how pleased they were to have Mr. and Mrs. Hughes with them and to see Mr. Hughes perform this little ceremony. He expressed the hope that the tree would develop and reach a ripe old age, and that Mr. Hughes would long be with them to see its growth.

Mr. Hughes, in response, thanked Mr. McLeod and members of the board for their good wishes and said he was very glad to have been given the opportunity of planting the tree. Continuing, Mr. Hughes said he remembered the first tree being planted on the hill that projected into the sports ground, which was then a swamp extending to Fillis Street. Later the tree was removed when the hill was being cut back to fill in the swamp, and another tree was planted on the edge of the lake somewhere near where they were now standing, subsequently some of the members objected to the tree being on that spot because it obstructed the View of the ferns, and so that too was cut down.

LONG ACQUAINTANCE WITH PARK.

"My acquaintance with this place," said Mr. Hughes, "goes back many years, to days even before the war of 1860. It commenced in the 50's. In those days the valley running up towards Brooklands was used as a practice ground for rifle shooting. The mounds were formed with sods, and the targets were somewhere near where the Poets' Bridge stands today. Not far from here a member of the Messenger family was killed. The family had some fine strapping sons in the Volunteers, all over 6ft. Tall. In those days the Volunteers were on guard all night all round the town, and particularly along the beach. At daybreak they were dismissed and often made their way to neighbouring orchards which had been deserted but which were still bearing fruit. It was in one of these orchards that

young Messenger was shot by an ambuscade of Natives."

Cheers were given for Mr. and Mrs. Hughes.

Mrs. Hughes said she would like to say a few words. She had been reading lately about the great sin of ingratitude. It was wonderful how often it was spoken of in the Bible. They read that the people of Israel were ungrateful and that they suffered in consequence. Shakespeare very often mentioned the sin of ingratitude. Ingratitude was a sign of weakness, not of strength, and she said she had determined when she came along with Mr. Hughes to thank those people who had been so kind to her husband, who appreciated all he had done and held him in such high esteem. She was very grateful indeed to them and would always have the happiest of recollections of this ceremony. In conclusion, Mrs. Hughes recited a poem the theme of which was that those who gave service for others were never old.

TH, APRIL 6, 1934

ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE IMPRESSIVE SERVICE HELD PUKEKURA PARK GATHERING GREAT CONCOURSE ATTENDS

Each year the Anzac Day service in New Plymouth becomes more and more impressive and its lesson of remembrance, comradeship and valour is given even greater emphasis and significance. Yesterday's nineteenth anniversary of the landing of the gallant Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915, was honoured throughout both the Dominion and Commonwealth with simple ceremonial. The gathering at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, lived up to its reputation as one of the finest in the country. About 12,000 people were estimated to have been present at the park, while nearly 1500 took part in the parade from the Cenotaph, the number being well up to the strength of previous years. The streets from the Cenotaph to the park were lined with people anxious to see what is New Plymouth's greatest parade of the year.

At the park the salute was taken by Colonel F. Symon, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.N.Z.A., A.D.C. to the King, officer commanding the Central Military Command. Following this the usual service was held, the short address being delivered by Captain A. Chandler, of the Salvation Army, who stressed the irreparable loss which the Great War had caused in the death of the flower of the country's manhood. He urged that their sacrifice should not be made in vain and that all should have a full realisation of the futility of war as a means of settling international disputes. So long as Anzac Day was remembered and honoured there was no fear that the lessons which it taught would be forgotten.

NZ HERALD, JUNE 2, 1934

BEAUTIFUL JAVA PLANT ATTEMPT AT CULTIVATION

Seeds of a tropical plant, of which there are no specimens in New Zealand, have been presented to Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of Pukekura Park, New

Plymouth, by Staff-Captain W. B. Pearce, of the Java corps of the Salvation Army.

The plant is known in Java as "bride's tears" and is described as having the most beautiful blooms of any plant in that country. It hangs on stems like wisteria and is extensively used for decorative purposes. Features are its variety of colour and beautiful Sheen.

Whether he will be able to propagate this bloom Mr. Horton does not know. He states that the plant needs hot, dry conditions. The seeds will be planted under glass, and it, will then be attempted to cultivate blooms in warm corners of the park.

PATEA MAIL, JUNE 15, 1934
HOMESTEAD AT 'BROOKLANDS'
SALE FOR DEMOLITION.
PRIVATE TREATY PRICE £180

Within a few days the demolition of the homestead and outbuildings at "Brooklands," New Plymouth, will commence, for a sale of the property for removal for £180 was concluded on Wednesday by private treaty between the New Plymouth Borough Council and the New Plymouth Bottle Exchange. This was a sequel to the public auction last Friday when the only bid offered (£150) failed to reach the reserve of £200.

The present house, which overlooks the gully towards Pukekura Park, has stood for many years and was occupied by the late Mr. Newton King and his family. It was the successor to a dwelling erected about 1843, slightly to the rear of the existing house. It was a long, low slate-roofed house, and it contained the big hearth and oven, now the only part of the old building left.

TH, JULY 24, 1934
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee was held last night, there being present: The Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C. (chairman), Messrs. H. Dempsey, F. Amore, W. F. Short, E. J. Carr, E. King, F. Parker and P. E. Stainton (secretary). The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) also attended. Apologies were received from the Mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, and from Mr. R. C. Hughes.

A good deal of developmental and maintenance work had been carried out, reported the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton). Many large branches of pines had been blown down in the cyclone, and some trees were uprooted or snapped off level with the ground. One tree on the racecourse walk came down across the track. A large macrocarpa was blown down near the John Street walk, and a large magnolia and a number of smaller trees broken down. The banks of the large lake had been trimmed and 50 pongas planted. Twenty or thirty more were to be planted.

Mr. W. C. Weston was thanked for assistance in advertising in connection with the lake boats and the fernery.

It was reported that the demolition of the Brooklands homestead was progressing satisfactorily and with a minimum of damage to surrounding lawns.

Notification that the telephone engineer considered the installation of a slot telephone inadvisable at Brooklands was received. It was stated that a fairly large expenditure would be entailed and that revenue would not meet maintenance.

In reply to a letter from Mr. R. C. Hughes, passing on a suggestion for the planting of native fruit-bearing trees, it was pointed out that this had been and was the board's policy.

Notice of motion that the resolution debaring the leasing of the board's sections in Gover Street be rescinded was given. It was stated that if leased these sections would bring in a revenue of about £50 per annum.

It was decided to take no further action regarding the persons found cycling in Pukekura Park recently, but action will be taken with future offenders.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES
OPENING DAY SPADE

Mr. Amore, on behalf of Mr. Harry Wood of Eltham, presented to the committee the actual spade that was used for the planting of the first tree in the park. It was resolved that the spade be cleaned and suitably inscribed and placed on exhibition in the Tea Kiosk.

TH, JULY 24, 1934
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
WORK AT BROOKLANDS
RESERVE OVERHAULED
SHELTER BELTS AND FENCES.
POLICY TO BE FOLLOWED.

"Brooklands may be said to have been completely overhauled in the past few months," said the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C. chairman of the Pukekura Park Committee, in presenting to the committee last night a statement of the work carried out on the reserve and stating the committee's future policy. "Careful estimates for the next nine months have been prepared and provided that separate financial provision is made for capital expenditure the committee should be able to thoroughly maintain both Pukekura Park and Brooklands with the ordinary finances. Members will agree that it is a wise policy to complete the whole of the essential shelter belts and boundary fences during the planting season and dispose of capital outlay in this direction. Budgeting for the future will consist practically entirely of maintenance, and of systematic planting out and fortifying of the bush from our own nurseries. It can be safely estimated and stabilised," continued Mr. McLeod.

Estimates were discussed in committee.

Work at Brooklands had been especially concentrated on, reported the superintendent (Mr. T. Horton). Fencing and protective work around the large puriri and giant karaka had been carried out. The reforming and metalling of the main drive had been completed and general fencing and cleaning up a heavy growth of acacia and gorse on the Victoria Street bank had been cleared and it was proposed to do the with similar growth on the face of the hill near the main entrance. Trees planted at Brooklands totalled 925. They included 250 cypessus lawsoniana, 340 assorted

Native, 35 thuja gigantea, 200 macrocarpa and 100 pohutukawas.

Excellent work was revealed by an inspection of Brooklands, stated the chairman. Brooklands appeared to be deficient in kowhais and in conformity with the board's policy the planting of this valuable tree would be continued there. Work at Brooklands had cost £271 and further work would bring the sum to £300. This had so far to be found out of the board's ordinary revenue. Grass seed was needed for new lawns.

"Paths, old and new, lawns, flower-beds and forest with the approaching spring will reveal unique beauty and glory as a new source of genuine pleasure and pride for our own citizens as well as visitors." continued the chairman. The superintendent should be allowed to pursue the same policy of acquiring outstanding specimens of both exotic and indigenous forest trees that had proved such a success in Pukekura Park. In spite of increased responsibility the superintendent and his staff had carried out maintenance work as satisfactorily as usual.

"In conclusion," said Mr. McLeod. "it can be said that the whole undertaking can, as result of the organisation of the plan of campaign, be easily envisaged by members and a complete rota of additional work can now be arranged and budgeted for."

TH, SEPTEMBER 26, 1934
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park committee was held last night, there being present Messrs. P. E. Stainton (acting-chairman), H. Dempsey, F. Parker, C. E. Bellringer, E. King, E. R. C. Gilmour, W. F. Short, E. J. Carr and Mr. T. Horton (superintendent). Apologies for absence were received from the chairman, the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C., and Messrs. F. Amore and R. C. Hughes.

Consideration of the application of the New Plymouth Sportsground Committee for the lease of the sportsground at Pukekura Park for a further five years was deferred until a further meeting, Mr. Stainton pointing out that the lease was now a question of policy and one which would have to be decided by a full meeting. Though the Sportsground Committee's lease has expired, it will continue in control until the Park Committee considers the question.

The Mayor (Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour) applied for the use of the Pukekura Park sportsground on December 15 for a charity fete. Final consideration of the request was deferred.

The superintendent reported on general routine work at Brooklands and Pukekura Park. Preparatory work at the Fillis Street Gully was in progress and a number of shrubs and trees had been planted in temporary beds. Fencing at Brooklands was temporarily held up owing to the fact that a large amount of unemployed labour had been withdrawn. Seed in the new lawns at Brooklands had germinated well.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Ivan B Waddle employed as a cadet.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 26, 1934
CANOE RACING AT PARK.**

The application of the West End School Jubilee Committee for the use of the main lake at Pukekura Park for canoe and swimming events on March 9, in connection with jubilee celebrations was approved by the park committee last night.

**TH, OCTOBER 10, 1934
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
SPORTSGROUND CONTROL**

Preliminary arguments regarding the future control of the sportsground at Pukekura Park were heard at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night, when after some discussion a sub-committee was set up to confer with the New Plymouth Committee and draft a scheme for the consideration of the former committee at its next monthly meeting. Consideration of the matter had been deferred from the previous meeting, when the Sportsground Committee made application for a renewal of the lease for a further term of five years.

"It is a question of whether we grant the lease or keep this fruitful source of revenue for the committee," said the chairman, Mr. F. Amooe, when outlining the position. The Sportsground Committee had completed a seven years' lease and now requested one of five years.

Mr. C. E. Bellringer, drawing attention to the work accomplished by the Sportsground Committee, said that payments to the Park Committee, the lessor, had varied from £75 to £200. In 1932 the payment was £160 and in 1934 £120. This went to pay for the labour for improvements provided by the lessors.

At the time the Sportsground Committee was first formed the controlling body of the park had been out of touch with sporting activities and it had been felt that a Sportsground Committee could better deal with the ground, which was then in a very poor condition. The Sportsground Committee had immediately set to work to effect improvements and had obtained a loan from the Taranaki Rugby Union of £250.

RAISING OF FUNDS.

In 1923 continued Mr. Bellringer, the committee had organised a queen carnival, which had resulted in a very large profit of £2396. The committee had very generously provided that the Park Board should share this, and as a result the latter body obtained £1448, which it had done little to earn. With the remaining funds from the carnival the committee had erected a pavilion, at a cost of £800. Subsequently the committee had purchased a tractor, roller and mower costing £400, for ground upkeep.

"The Park Board would have been powerless to do these things," said Mr. Bellringer. "They had not sufficient revenue. The wonderful condition of the ground to-day is due to their efforts. These are things we ought to keep in our minds. It does seem to me that they have used their power well; there is not a

sportsground in New Zealand in better condition."

The sportsground was a part of the park which had to be kept in good order, added Mr. Bellringer. In nine cases out of ten it was the first part of the reserve visitors saw and he had frequently heard appreciation of the great area of clean turf.

"We, can never afford to let the ground go back and I think it would be wise for us to see if some effort can be made to continue with the present administration. It appears that the revenue of the committee comes from the Rugby Union."

The chairman supported Mr. Bellringer's remarks, stating that the Sportsground Committee had undoubtedly done wonderful work at a time when the Park Committee was not able to do anything. "Whether we can do anything now, I don't know," said Mr. Amooe. "I think that before coming to any decision we should have a sub-committee confer with the Sportsground Committee. Personally I do not think we are obtaining enough revenue from the sportsground, but we might be able to come to some better arrangement if we decide to let the Sportsground Committee carry on.

If we decide to run it ourselves it means a great deal of work and it is a question whether we can find the time to do it. The whole thing was a question of money and I do not believe we are getting enough."

SUB-COMMITTEE FAVOURED.

Mr. H. Dempsey agreed with the previous speaker's remarks. He would not like to see the Sportsground Committee go out of existence altogether, he said, and he would favour them being met by a sub-committee.

The secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, said that apart from the funds derived from the queen carnival and the amount it paid to the Park Committee for rent, the Sportsground Committee spent its revenue on ground improvements. There was no question but that the money had been wisely spent, but the Borough Council was looking for some relief from subsidies now that there was the added expenditure on Brooklands and Maranui.

Mr. Bellringer: The council will have to face that themselves.

Mr. Stainton continued that it was part of the Park Committee's, affairs. "We cannot lightly give away this source of revenue," he said. "Our total revenue does not allow it."

As most of the important work on the sportsground was done, said Mr. W. F. Short, some arrangement could be made with the Sportsground Committee for money for the park generally.

Mr. Stainton said his idea was to have a sub-committee working in an advisory capacity with the Sportsground Committee, There would then be no need for any lease at all. Some buffer between the Park Committee and various sports bodies was needed.

Messrs. Bellringer, E. R. C. Gilmour and Stainton were appointed a sub-

committee to confer with the Sportsground Committee.

**TH, NOVEMBER 14, 1934
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Pukekura Park Committee held its monthly meeting last night, there being present the Hon. James McLeod (chairman) and Messrs. F. Amooe, E. King, F. Parker, W. F. Short, C. Bellringer, the Mayor (Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour), and Mr. P. E. Stainton (secretary). The superintendent (Mr. T. H. Horton) also attended. An apology for absence was received from Mr. E. J. Carr.

A substantial fence had been erected on the boundary of the bush area at Highlands, reported Mr. Horton. The estate was now closed to stock. Fern, gorse and blackberry had been cut away and burned off. Danger of fire was being obviated by clearing the Brooklands side of the Highlands gully. General maintenance work had also been carried out.

A high-pressure water supply had been laid on at Brooklands and a gate erected at the corner of the Brooklands Road. Most of the notice boards authorised had been erected.

The cost of protecting the edges of lawns at the Brooklands main drive, by putting in concrete borders, would be £23 14s. Stone and fittings on monument hill had been removed.

The sportsground was in excellent order. Practice and match wickets had been prepared. The ditch on the eastern side had been piped and filled in, and concrete steps were being constructed on the southern terraces. The cost of material was being paid by the Sports Committee, while labour was being done by the staff. Name plates were to be added to the principal trees at Brooklands within the near future, the botanical and common name both being shown.

It was decided to ask the approval of the Borough Council for the concrete verges at Brooklands, as a permanent improvement.

**CONTROL OF SPORTSGROUND
ADDITIONS TO COMMITTEE.
MEMBER OFFERS TO RESIGN.**

After one member of the Pukekura Park Committee, Mr. C. E. Bellringer had offered to resign in favour of the members of the Sportsground Committee, whose admittance to the Borough Councils committee was suggested by the latter body, now defunct, the Park Committee decided at its monthly meeting last night that these representatives be recommended for addition to the committee. It was also decided that the funds handed over by the defunct body, £320, be used as suggested for permanent improvements to the sportsground.

Messrs. C. E. Bellringer and P. E. Stainton, two of the Park Committee delegates who attended the annual meeting of the Sportsground Committee, reported on the proceedings, as published in last night's Taranaki Herald. The other member of the delegation was the Mayor (Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour).

The Hon. James McLeod (chairman) said that the committee had found a very satisfactory solution. There was no doubt, he said, that the Sportsground Committee had grown unwieldy as increasing numbers of delegates from sports bodies had been invited on to it. However, the new method of control appeared very satisfactory.

"I am in a somewhat invidious position as far as leasing the sportsground is concerned," Mr. McLeod added, stating that he favoured administration by a committee of five, to be responsible to the Park Committee.

He would not favour any increase in the size of the Park Committee, said Mr. Amoore. He quite saw the justice of adding members of the Sportsground Committee, but the present committee was large enough.

"If some of our members go off, well and good," continued Mr. Amoore. "However, I don't think we can reasonably ask the Borough Council to increase the present committee. There is no necessity for the three Sportsground Committee men to be full members of the board. They can form a sub-committee responsible to us."

Mr. McLeod stated that no financial powers could be delegated.

Mr. C. E. Bellringer said that as he had been a member of the controlling body of Pukekura Park for 20 years, he felt willing to resign to allow the new members to come on. There was already one vacancy. An increase in the size of the committee was a matter for the Borough Council.

Mr. Amoore said that as the size of the Park Committee was to be increased by only one, he would withdraw his objection.

It was then decided to recommend to the Borough Council that the names of Messrs. E. Jackson, F. S. Varnham and N. Johnson be added to the Park Committee as suggested by the Sportsground Committee.

TH, NOVEMBER 14, 1934 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING SPORTSGROUND CONTROL

The Pukekura Park Board met last night, those present being the Hon. James McLeod (chairman) and Messrs. H. Dempsey, F. Amoore, E. King, E. Jackson, N. Johnson, W. F. Short, C. E. Bellringer, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. H. Horton (superintendent). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. E. J. Carr, R. C. Hughes, F. Parker, and F. S. Varnham.

The Sportsground Committee reported that since the last meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee the sub-committee appointed to be responsible for the control of the sportsground, viz., Messrs. Jackson, Varnham, Johnson and Stainton, had met on two occasions. At the first meeting Mr. E. Jackson was elected chairman and Mr. P. E. Stainton hon. secretary.

A general inspection of the ground was made and it was resolved to recommend that the following works be approved, subject to the prices and conditions of the work being submitted to the Pukekura Park Board for their final approval: Concrete steps in the north-eastern corner of the sportsground in place of wooden steps; about the end of March next year, the three top terraces on the eastern embankment be set back; it was resolved that this matter be referred to the borough engineer for his approval; that a roofing be placed over the north pathway facing Fillis Street; that the ground be top-dressed about the end of September.

WORK ON THE GROUND.

It was resolved that the work on the sportsground should be confined to one man for three days per week during the summer months, which included the whole of the cricket season, and for two days per week during the winter months, which included the football season. At present a great deal more time was being spent on the ground and the committee was of the opinion that the ground could

be kept up to a very satisfactory standard at a reduced cost by adhering in the main to the above-mentioned scheme.

The committee were also arranging to meet the athletic and cricket associations to confer with them on the conditions of the use of the ground.

Mr. T. H. Horton, park superintendent, was authorised to give radio talk from 2YB on the attractions of Pukekura Park.

Mr. Horton reported on the work done in Pukekura Park during the past month. Since the last meeting the No. 2 bridge near the boathouse had been cleaned and painted and now with its new decking was in good order and condition. All the portable seats in the park had been cleaned and repaired and were now being painted. A length of several chains of the drive at the western end of the lower lake had been re-formed and metalled. The dead branches of dead trees on the Gilbert Street drive had been removed or cut back and the borders overhauled and put in order.

The special cyclone wire specially made for the Tea House borders had arrived and been erected. This was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess.

All grass areas were being mowed and cleaned up. Annuals were planted in nearly all the beds and good growth was being made by all the newly planted trees. In the sportsground area the concrete steps on the southern terrace had been finished and the grass on all the terraces cut and cleaned up. Other work done had been that of general maintenance.

The fernery was looking well, the new growth of the plants being very good and the begonias and other decorative plants were sufficiently forward to ensure an attractive display during the holiday season. Name plates were that day attached to 30 of the most outstanding specimen trees at Brooklands.



Brooklands lake, NZ Herald, January 26, 1934

TARANAKI HERALD, MARCH 12, 1934

“Brooklands Opened”

LARGE GATHERING OF CITIZENS

Sunshine and the song of birds.

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY ON LAWN.

Inspiring address by Governor-General.

The glorious sunshine in which the country was bathed on Saturday afternoon was in striking contrast to the dismal prospect of a fine day which the weather of Friday afternoon and evening presented for the opening of “Brooklands” on the following day. And the hopes had slumped badly then, they were at once revived when Saturday broke a perfect day and remained so throughout. So the ceremony which had been so well planned for the handing over by the trustees of the estate of the property of “Brooklands” to the borough of New Plymouth as a public reserve, and its official opening as such by his Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, was carried out in its entirety without the necessity of any modification and in complete conformity with the program of proceedings that have been arranged. The ceremony was a simple one, but was made appropriately impressive by the less conventional character of the proceedings, and with a recognition of the spiritual significance of the gifts of Nature that is scarcely usual on ceremonial occasions.

Tribute was paid to the maker of the garden, appreciation expressed of the action of the trustees of the estate in handing over the property to the public, and thanks returned to them for the wonderful gift to the town by its chief representatives; and in declaring the property open as a public reserve Lord Bledisloe struck a high note of inspiration from the love of Nature's gifts, and in a blaze of golden sunshine, to the accompaniment of the liquid notes of some of the loveliest of New Zealand's native birds, “Brooklands,” which for the past half-century had been a private garden, became a public reserve for all time for the people of New Plymouth.

The Gathering Crowds. Large Assemblage on Lawns. Preliminaries to Proceedings.

It soon became evident at an early hour on Saturday afternoon that New Plymouth was going to do honor to the memory of the man who made “Brooklands” and to show appreciation of the action of his executors in making the beautiful property the heritage of the people of the district for all time. Crowds wended their way to the gardens, some in cars, some by bus, and many on foot, and when the time arrived for the ceremony to commence there was a gathering of several thousands of

citizens surrounding the lawn upon which the dais had been erected for the occasion. To the left of the dais was the special accommodation for the invited guests, while on the right was the gallery erected for the choir, and the public stretched away across the lawns beyond the begonia house. So well planned had the arrangement been that everything works smoothly, and during the gathering of the assemblage the Taranaki Regimental and New Plymouth Municipal Band (under Captain F. W. G. M'Leod) play a program on the lawn little distant from the Dais. The High School cadets, under Major V. E. Kerr, paraded and mounted the guard of honour for the Governor General. Photographers were busy all over the grounds taking pictures of the gathering crowds and the incidents connected with the proceedings.

When the Governor General and Lady Bledisloe arrived accompanied by Captain Tweedie, A.D.C., they were met by the Mayor of New Plymouth (Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour), the chairman of the Pukekura Park Board (Mr. J. M'Leod), the member for the district (Mr. S. G. Smith, MP.), and Mr. Truby King, representing the family of the late Mr. Newton King.

The band played the National Anthem, and after His Excellency had inspected the guard of honour the vice-regal party was escorted to the enclosure, where the members of the late Mr. King's family were presented to Lord and Lady Bledisloe, who were then escorted to the special seats on the dais. Here a beautiful bouquet was presented to Lady Bledisloe by Miss Lynette King, her Excellency showing her appreciation of the gift by kissing the child.

The Ceremony. Prayer and Thanksgiving.

The ceremony proper thereupon commenced, Archdeacon Evans leading the assemblage in a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift, the givers and the recipients, followed with the Lord's Prayer and a silence of two minutes in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Newton King. The prayer offered was as follows: “Almighty and most merciful Father: the creator and Preserver of this wonderful universe; the author and Giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank Thee for preparing so wonderful world for Thy creatures to dwell upon. “Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to praise Thee.” All Thy works proclaim Thy goodness and mercy. We

thank Thee for all the provisions Thou hast made in Nature for the happiness of mankind; for the life giving lights on the sun, for the silver beams of the moon, and for the distant stars that guide the wanderers on their way. We thank Thee for the cleansing seas; for the flowing rivers; For the trees, and flowers, and green grass that beautify the earth; for the changing seasons that bring joy and plenty to us all; and for the myriad voices in which nature hymns her gratitude to Thee. We thank Thee, O Lord, to-day for the gift of this beautiful addition to our park, and pray for a blessing upon the givers and receivers. May this place, so full of happy memories, be made a blessing to all who shall visit it. May the many tokens of Thy goodwill and blessing which we see around us be a great inspiration to us all, leading us to praise and magnify Thy Holy Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior - Amen.

The Music.

The assemblage led by a large choir and orchestra, which included all the pupils of the Girls High School and representatives of New Plymouth musical organizations and church choirs, sang two verses of Kipling's “Recessional,” and after thanks had been given by the chief citizens for the gift of the property they also sang two verses of the hymn. “Now thank we all our God.” After the Governor-General's address in officially opening the grounds, the choir under the direction of Mr. R. Laurie Cooper, sang Te Deum Laudamus, to the setting by Jackson.

Greater Than Monetary Gift.

In formally handing over the property to the Borough Council on behalf of the trustees of the estate and the members of the family of the late Mr. Newton King, Mr. Truby King traced briefly some of the little-known history of the property. He stated that the first selection for suburban and rural lands in the new settlement was made by ballot in June, 1842, but at the selection of town sections in November, 1841, the first choice was granted Captain King, the chief commissioner of the New Plymouth Company, and the first resident Magistrate at New Plymouth. The privilege was applied to the suburban selection as well, as Captain King also acquired, by choice, the 50 acres adjoining the town belt, which became known as “Brooklands.” The late Captain King was unrelated to the family of Mr. Newton King except in name. Captain King's father, Mr. George Cutfield King, was granted 250 acres by the Government, and that section extended from Frankley Road and included what is now known as “Maranui.”

On his death the property was cut up, and in 1888 a portion of it was purchased by Mr. Newton King, so that the place had been in the family for nearly half a century. “As you see it to-day,” said the speaker, “it is very different from what it was at that time.” It had evolved to its present state through a process of transition and development and not so much according to any design or plan made at the beginning which was to produce the result seen to-day.

Gradually orchard gave way to trees and flowering plants, and these again to flower garden beds; "but it was all done under the guidance of my father," said Mr. King, "with the expert assistance of Mr. Boulton as head gardener, who is still on his job to-day." (Applause).

The late Mr. King, said the speaker, was a great lover of flowers, and was passionately fond of his garden. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than to allow those less fortunate than himself to share in the pleasure of his garden, and for that reason he made a practice of throwing "Brooklands" open to the public periodically. Of all the many and varied activities of his father, said Mr. King, no investment gave him such a return or was attended with so few disappointments as his garden. As trustees of his estate it seemed to the speaker and his brother Eliot that they could best give effect to their father's wish to do something to improve Pukekura Park by handing over "Brooklands" to the borough for the enjoyment of the public, for in the difficult times like the present the providing of the monetary gift as in the will meant a postponement of the bequest for many years. In giving "Brooklands" they were not only carrying out his wish, but to the fullest and highest degree by making the acquisition of "Brooklands" for all time of much greater value than a monetary gift could be worth. (applause). In handing over "Brooklands" the members of the family did not part with what had been their home without a deep feeling of regret. It held for them all many deep and happy associations, but they were glad to know that the merging of the property with the beautiful Pukekura Park was for the purpose of administrative control. "Brooklands" would always be "Brooklands," and it would always retain its own identity. He therefore had great pleasure in handing over to the Mayor, for the people of New Plymouth, the property of "Brooklands" as a gift from his father's estate. (Applause).

Commemorating Great Gift.

The gift to the public was acknowledged firstly by the Mayor, then by the chairman of the Pukekura Park Board, and also by Mr. S. G. Smith, M.P., on behalf of the citizens of the New Plymouth electorate.

In his address of thanks the Mayor said: It affords me very great pleasure to accept on behalf of the people of New Plymouth this wonderful gift.

Nearly 59 years ago, several of the pioneers of this town, amongst them Mr. R. C. Hughes, whom I am pleased to see with us to-day (applause) commenced the great work of transforming what was then a piece of waste land into the thing of beauty it is to-day—beautiful Pukekura Park. On May 29, 1876, the first trees were planted in Pukekura. That day has proved to be a memorable one in the history of the borough.

To-day is an equally historic occasion for we are commemorating the gift of an area as great as that of Pukekura Park—an area already complete in all respects as a park, and in its own way equal in beauty with Pukekura, which it

immediately adjoins, and of which it forms a natural extension. With the addition of this area, New Plymouth will have a park second to none in the Dominion, comprising over 100 acres, and situate almost within a stone's throw of the central portion of the town.

No finer gift could have been thought of. "Brooklands" has always been one of the show spots of New Plymouth. The late Mr. Newton King played a very important part in the development of this town and district and in his lifetime he used to delight in throwing these grounds open to the public on certain Sundays throughout the year. Now that he has passed away and these grounds have been handed over to the people, this great park will be for him a wonderful and lasting memorial. On behalf of the people of New Plymouth I most sincerely thank the family of the late Mr. King and the trustees of the estate for this great gift.

We accept the gift, and with it the responsibilities which attach thereto. "Brooklands" and Pukekura together form a goodly heritage for the people of this district for all time.

The people to-day gladly recognise that as these parks are theirs to enjoy, so they are theirs to maintain and improve, and this sentiment will without any doubt whatsoever descend from generation to generation. May "Brooklands" and Pukekura be and remain things of beauty and a joy forever.

"In conclusion," said the Mayor, "it is my great privilege to cordially welcome your Excellencies to-day, and to express on behalf of the citizens of the town our grateful and intense pleasure at your presence among us on this important occasion, and to again assure you, as the representative of his Majesty the King, of our sincere and lasting loyalty and devotion to the throne."

Administrative Custodianship.

Mr. M'Leod said it was his great pleasure, as chairman of the Pukekura Park Board, to accept the administration and custodianship of this beautiful park, for a description of which words failed him. While many persons were familiar with the beautiful surroundings immediately around the house, many were quite unfamiliar with the beauties there were beyond, right up to the "Highland" estate. The whole town had always had a pardonable pride in "Brooklands," from its scenic and historic point of view, and the late Mr. King had derived a great deal of his pleasure in the place by sharing the grounds with his fellow townspeople. He had a great deal to do with the advancement of this province, perhaps more than anyone who had lived in the province.

Though he was well known in the town, he was perhaps better known in the more remote parts such as the Ohura, where he himself had been a real pioneer; but no work he had done had created such a lasting memorial to himself as the development of the beautiful grounds which that day were being handed over to the people or New Plymouth. Although the development had come gradually, it had been a result of the guiding hand and long vision of its owner. The responsibility of the new

owners would not be lightly undertaken. They recognised there would be criticism, much of it, perhaps, of a helpful nature, for as time went on there were bound to be changes. Nothing would be done, however, that would interfere with the natural beauties of the surroundings. (Applause). And nothing would be done to interfere with the native bush within the property. The speaker pointed out that around the whole of that bush there would be planted belts to protect the bush from what were termed "ground draughts."

He also stated that though the public might not be aware of it, the Newton King trustees had also given an area of four or five acres of bush beyond the immediate boundary of the homestead property, and to give access to it, and make the whole one large reserve, Messrs. List and Wilkinson had given an area of seven and a-half acres of the "Highland" estate to connect with this and the upper area of the estate. (Applause.) That was a wonderful piece of bush that had not yet been opened up. The speaker expressed the appreciation of the board of the action of the trustees in transferring the cash bequest from the estate into something which money could never have bought, and in the name of the committee and the people they represented he thanked them for their wonderful gift.

An Asset to the Dominion.

Mr. Smith said he was proud to be associated with this occasion as the representative of the people of this district in Parliament, and also as chairman of the Education Board, to represent the children of this district in the welcome extended to their Excellencies to New Plymouth. Mr. Smith spoke of the great interest in the unemployed of the Dominion evinced by their Excellencies, and of the wise counsel and helpfulness of his Excellency during the time the speaker had charge of the administration of that department of the Government's work. Both their Excellencies had shown a very practical sympathy with the unfortunate unemployed of the country.

Recently, said the speaker, he had had the privilege of participating in a ceremony held for the purpose of thanking their Excellencies for their gift to the country of the property at Waitangi, whereat the Treaty of Waitangi had been signed. That was an event of Empire significance. To-day they were assembled to thank the trustees of Newton King estate for their magnificent gift to this town. The speaker referred to the legislation which had to be passed before the gift could be made possible, and he pointed out that Parliament was very careful always to scrutinise all "promoted" legislation, and every possible investigation was made into this matter before the Bill was passed.

The trustees of the estate, the seaside committees who had given up their interests in the bequests in order to make this wonderful property available to the borough, had all played their part, but the speaker said he wished to pay tribute to the town clerk (Mr. F. T. Bellringer), who was one of the most efficient local body officers he had ever met in the

course of his public life. (Applause.) The speaker said he could appreciate something of the feelings of the members of the late Mr. King's family in parting with this wonderful property, which was now passing out of their immediate control.

When he first met the late Mr. King in public life he was a political opponent of the speaker, but he never found him anything but a sport and a gentleman. Side by side with him in his work in this place and for the community there had been Mrs. King, and the speaker said he also wished to publicly acknowledge the part she had played as a good wife, a great mother and a fine citizen of this town. In conclusion he returned grateful thanks to the trustees of the estate for handing over this wonderful property to the people of this town, and in doing so they gave it to the Dominion and to all visitors from abroad. He hoped that whatever happened in the future those responsible for its care would always view "Brooklands" from the point of view of a great asset more than a mere garden, and he hoped it would become an increasing attraction to the townspeople and to every visitor to the district.

BENEFICENT PUBLIC GIFT.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S ADDRESS,

On rising to perform the official act of declaring the grounds open as a public reserve his Excellency the Governor-General said that seldom had the inhabitants of any town met to signalise so beneficent a public gift as that which was so happily being observed that afternoon. The family of the late Mr. Newton King was widely known through two of its members—Sir Truby King and the former owner of this beautiful property. The one had perhaps been the instrument through whom more than anyone else more human lives had been saved, and the other had left what must be an indelible source of continual enjoyment for all time for the fortunate inhabitants of this locality. Proceeding, His Excellency said:

"I cannot conceive any function more thoroughly congenial to me than that which I am invited to perform in declaring this lovely property open to the public as the result of the beneficent bequest of your late, much respected townsman, Mr. Newton King, eventuating in a happy arrangement between the borough and Messrs. Truby and Eliot King, as his trustees, favourable alike to both. A 'Vice-Regal' opening seems hardly to do this reserve justice for there is something truly regal about it, not only in its appearance and equipment, but in its proprietorship seeing that ever since 1842 when this fertile portion of the Taranaki plain was settled by my fellow West Countrymen from the Old Land, it has been owned by a 'King.' No better lot can I wish for it than that it continue to be 'regal' in the majesty of its unspoiled beauty and in the deference and respect shown to it by posterity.

"Pukekura Park, aided by the scenic background of the Empire's most lovely mountain, stands unrivalled among the municipal parks of this Dominion," his Excellency continued. "Now that it is supplemented and complemented by this

unique property and the valuable link of Native bush supplied by the munificence of Mr. T. C. List and Mr. C. A. Wilkinson, it is safe to say that, unless the ruthless hand of the vandal descends upon it in days to come, no scenic reserve in New Zealand will ever surpass in attractiveness that situate in this delectable valley, which in its comprehensive beauty is henceforth the property of the inhabitants of New Plymouth.

Unique in Two Respects.

"New Zealand possesses many outstanding natural advantages for which it may well thank a beneficent providence," the speaker, proceeded. "Its fertile soil, its almost perfect climate, its standard of health, the physique and wholesome traditions of its people and the hitherto barely tapped wealth of its natural resources. But in two respects it is absolutely unique in the world. One is the number, variety and grandeur of its beauty spots within a relatively small area and the other is its Native bush which has no rival in the world. And there is economic value as well aesthetic delight inherent in Nature's generous equipment.

"I make bold to utter a prophecy to the truth of which only your grandchildren can confidently testify," said his Excellency. "It is that New Zealand's main source of wealth will not be found in sheep-breeding, goldmining, petroleum wells (laughter) or even dairy farming, but in its tourist traffic for hundreds of thousands will flock here from all over the world to see that sun-kissed land in the Pacific which Nature has most abundantly endowed with her aesthetic jewels. For every £50 that may accrue from the shortsighted felling in face of temporary economic stringency of some forest giant such as the great kauris of the Waipoua forest, at least a million pounds is lost to posterity in the permanent commercial value of the natural beautification of the Dominion, quite apart from the spiritual inspiration which its contemplation evokes in every normal civilised being."

A Centre of Enlightenment.

"And why should not New Plymouth be the centre of enlightenment for this purpose to the whole Dominion," his Excellency asked, "radiating sanity and foresight as well as a love of the beautiful, bringing to men's hearts and minds the pure happiness and mental peace which flows from contact with unspoiled nature and an intimate knowledge of her incomparable treasures. New Plymouth is well fitted for this much needed pioneer task. Her children are trained in the schools to know and to love Native plants and to cultivate thereby that capacity for observation which is a priceless equipment for every vocation in life. She has a sufficient rainfall, which while promoting growth is also some safeguard against destruction by fire, an equable climate, a rich, deep porous soil and a volcanic subsoil. In the matter of variety of types of indigenous timber trees and plants she is ideally situated in a geographical sense. Here North meets South and sub-tropical and temperate plants alike flourish in profusion—plants characteristic of the flora of both

islands. It is significant that here in this generously equipped reserve is to be found, close to the extreme southern limit of its natural habitat, the largest, and symmetrically the most perfect, Puriri in the Dominion, and what tree can claim in its durable and fine grained timber, its foliage, its flowers and its fruit, greater all-round beauty or utility? You have, too, tree ferns and todeas of a size and quality which even Westland would find it difficult to emulate.

A Word of Warning.

"I see around me," said Lord Bledisloe, "not merely Native bush and well-trimmed English lawns, but also fine specimens of exotic trees imported from Great Britain and elsewhere 90 years ago, the most striking being the great Spanish chestnut with a lateral spread of 90 feet—a truly wonderful tree, and I can say so with confidence, because I have on my family estate the oldest and finest grove of Spanish chestnuts in England, containing one tree of 24 feet girth at breast height but none with such far spreading lateral branches as yours. In this connection I may venture to utter a word of warning, although conscious that it is unnecessary to do it, so far as your present enlightened borough authorities are concerned. It is this. Do not on any account, and however great the temptation may be, mix up your Native and your exotic trees, even if a love of the Old Land or a pride in the "Devon, glorious Devon" of your ancestors should stir up sentiment in favour of incursions of the latter into the sacred precincts of the former. If you or your children effect this promiscuous intercourse this magnificent environment of pure Native bush will be for ever ruined in the eyes not only of expert botanists but of those who love symmetry and arboreal compatibility and who deem Nature's primeval plan to be better even than that of the most experienced landscape gardener.

"Just as well nigh on a century ago your pioneer forefathers made English homes and clustered round English firesides amid New Zealand surroundings so let New Zealand Native bush continue to constitute, without exotic adulterant, the verdant belt of this reserve, however much you may Anglicise the area which it encloses.

"Finally," said his Excellency, "let me exhort you to encourage the birds, and especially the bellbirds, and other Native songsters. Half the joy of country life is furnished by the delicate beauty of colour, conformation and song of the birds. But birds need for their sustenance and happiness nectar and berries, and if they are to thrive and add to human joyfulness trees and plants which can furnish them must be adequately provided.

"I now declare 'Brooklands' reserve open to the public," concluded his Excellency, "and trust that it may be a source of health, happiness and recreation, physical, spiritual- and mental, to people of all classes, and ages belonging to both races, for many generations to come." (Applause.)

Presentation Programme.

On the conclusion of his address his Excellency was presented by the Mayor with a specially bound copy of the

souvenir programme, and in acknowledging the gift Lord Bledisloe said he wished to congratulate those who had prepared such a memento of the occasion. Apart from the excellent letterpress contained in the programme there were some of the finest landscape photographs he had ever seen (and he was able to speak with some knowledge of photography) in any publication. He said he would value the gift very much. The official ceremony concluded with the singing of the National Anthem, led by the choir and orchestra.

The members of the Borough Council, the members of the Park Committee and the invited guests were then presented to their Excellencies and all were then the guests of the committee at afternoon tea served in the residence, the rooms of which had been most tastefully decorated for the occasion with flowers from "Brooklands," Pukekura Park and the nurseries of Messrs. Duncan and Davies. A happy and informal time was spent here, and then Lord and Lady Bledisloe walked through the grounds of "Brooklands" to Mr. T. C. List's

"Maranui" property, leaving from Avenue Road on their return to the North Egmont Hostel.

Altogether the afternoon's proceedings were carried out with care for every detail, and the occasion will remain a happy memory for all who participated in it.

Afternoon tea was served to the public in the romantic setting "under the spreading chestnut tree."

CANNON FROM HARRIET WRECK.

AN AMUSING TRADITION.

If it is not the most beautiful of the objects at "Brooklands" a cannon which rests in the old fireplace, the only surviving part of Captain Thomas King's home, is certainly one of the most mysterious.

It has been there ever since anybody connected with "Brooklands" can remember but how and where it was acquired is not known. No one can say whether it was acquired by the late Mr. Newton King or by the former owner of the estate, Captain King.

It is, however, stated that the cannon is a relic of the barque Harriet which was wrecked on the Harriet Beach, near Rahotu, some years before the first colonists arrived in Taranaki.

To sight-seers the cannon has always been of great interest, and in fact there grew up an amusing tradition about it. The tradition as related by Mr. Newton King to numerous visitors was as follows: Soon after the wreck of the Harriet the captain was standing on the beach watching his ship being battered to pieces. A bystander asked him why he was so disconsolate to which captain replied that he was not worrying so much about the loss of his ship, as the fate of a cannon on board. A Maori on the beach, hearing this, immediately plunged in, and battled his way through the breakers to the ship, bringing the cannon ashore.

"And," Mr. Newton King used to say, "if you look closely you will see the teeth marks where the Maori brought the cannon ashore in his mouth."

Photographs taken when Brooklands was handed over to the town.

Published in the *Taranaki Herald*, March 16, 1934.



OPENING OF "BROOKLANDS."—Mr. Teahy King, son of the late Mr. Thomas King, addressing his address at the official ceremony, when he handed over the property to the borough on behalf of the King family. —Photo by H. H. H. H.



DELIVERING THE KEY TO THE BOROUGHS.—Miss Evelyn King, grand-daughter of the late Mr. Thomas King, presenting a key to the borough to Mr. T. C. List, Mayor of New Plymouth. —Photo by J. A. H. H.



Brooklands Homestead - Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 1370-0641-08



Ceremonial planting of a Kauri tree by Robert Clinton Hughes. April 5, 1934. The planting was requested by the Pukekura Park Board who attended the ceremony along with the superintendent Mr. Thomas Horton (seen kneeling down) and Mrs. Hughes. The Board members at the time, were James McLeod (chairman), Robert Clinton Hughes, Victor Davies, Fred Parker, Percy Stainton, Frank Amooore, Eliot King, Charlie Bellringer, William Short, Edward Carr, Everard Gilmour and Hector Dempsey. (private collection, Warwick Horton)

THE FATE OF THE BROOKLANDS HOMESTEAD

CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL AND THE PUKEKURA PARK COMMITTEE - April 12, 1934

Present: - His Worship the Mayor (Chairman), Crs. Amooore, Anderson, Brown, Darby, Grayling, Hill, Smith and Stainton (New Plymouth Borough Council) Messrs. J. McLeod C. E. Bellringer, E. King, W.F. Short, F. Parker and T. Horton Pukekura Park Committee). Apologies were received for the absence of Messrs. E. J. Carr and V. C. Davies.

The Conference considered most carefully and exhaustively the question of utilising in some way for public purposes the Homestead at Brooklands either on its present site or by utilising the materials for the erection of a Teahouse or Pavilion, but reluctantly came to the conclusion that no such course was feasible.

Some of the reasons leading to this decision were as follows: —

(1) The use of the building as a Mothercraft Home as desired by the Plunket Society is undesirable, in that: —

(a) the building is in the centre of a Park and it would be necessary, in order to enable the building to be used for the purpose mentioned, for an area of ground to be enclosed therewith for domestic purposes, and to ensure the privacy of the patients. To do so would seriously detract from the value and beauty of the existing gardens as a Park.

(b) the use of the building for the purpose mentioned would mean that the Park drives would require to be open for the use of tradesmen's vehicles.

(c) the building, which is of wood and was erected many years ago, would require a very heavy expenditure to recondition it for the purpose mentioned, and, in addition, the annual maintenance charges would be very great.

(d) the use of the building for any purpose other than as a Tea Kiosk, Art Gallery, Botanical Museum or similar public purpose would destroy the parklike atmosphere of the Reserve.

(2) The objections set out in paragraph (1) apply equally to the suggestion for the use of the building as an Eventide Home of Rest or Convalescent Home for Old Ladies.

(3) The use of the building as an Art Gallery or Botanical Museum is not feasible, in that: —

(a) the building being of wood in a very dry condition, the risk of valuable paintings or other works of art being destroyed in a fire would be too great for a public body to accept. Possible donors of works of art would also be deterred by this risk from adding to any collection established.

(b) apart from the question of fire risk, the Council is not in a position to incur the great expense of reconditioning the building, purchasing paintings and other works of art and providing a Caretaker for an Art Gallery.

(4) The demolition of the building for the purpose of using the materials for the erection of a Tea Kiosk or Pavilion is not desirable, in that: -

(a) a building of this nature at Brooklands is not necessary at present, and, if erected some time in the future, should be of permanent material to give a long life with a minimum expense for annual upkeep.

(5) The Conference also considered the question of whether for sentimental reasons the building should not be retained in its present position. In view of the age of the building, and of the materials of which it is constructed, it was recognised that it was only a matter of time when the building would deteriorate to such an extent as to compel its demolition. No good purpose would, therefore, be served by leaving it for a period which, after all, would be a very limited one, but one in which the annual maintenance costs would be heavy.

(6) It was also felt by the members of the Conference that the substantial extensions of the lawn in conjunction with the judicious planting of a limited number of specimen trees and shrubs thereon similar to the existing lawns, which would be possible after the removal of the Homestead and the vegetable garden area immediately behind the building, would materially enhance the whole of the outlook from the point of view of a public park.

That after the most careful consideration of the whole of the circumstances, and with the utmost regret that no other course is possible, this Conference is unanimously of the opinion that the Homestead at Brooklands should be removed.

The Conference adjourned in order to enable the members to inspect the proposed site of the Rhododendron Dell.

April 14, 1934. CONFERENCE RESUMED AT PUKEKURA PARK

Present: — Crs. Amooore, Anderson, Darby, Grayling, Hill, Smith and Stainton and Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, E. King and T. Horton.

4. That the site selected for the Rhododendron Dell, comprising the old "maze" and a small portion of Brooklands adjoining, including the swamp below the dam, be approved, no rhododendrons to be planted immediately under any of the Oak trees, a grass space to be left under each tree.

5. Members inspected the filling in Sections 1047 and 1048 part of Pukekura Park corner of Liardet and Gilbert Streets and decided to request the Borough engineer to expedite the laying of the pipes which he had already instructed the Foreman to put in. It was also decided to instruct Mr. Horton to take the necessary steps to ensure that the spoil was tipped in the position required.

V.O. BOX 92

All correspondence concerning public
works of the Borough of New Plymouth, through
Council and all correspondence relating
to private matters and addressed
to the Borough Engineer should be
sent to the Borough Engineer.

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL LETTERS
"THE TOWN CLERK,"
NEW PLYMOUTH.



Municipal Offices
New Plymouth
NEW ZEALAND

April 24th., 1934.

The Secretary,
Pukekura Park Committee,
P. O. Box 142,
NEW PLYMOUTH.

Dear Sir,

I enclose herewith copy of the report of the
recent conferences between the Council and your Committee.
This report was adopted by the Council last night.

The Council also passed the following resolution:-

"That in view of the report of the Conference between the
Council and Pukekura Park Committee and for the reasons
therein enumerated the Homestead Building at Brooklands
be submitted for sale by auction for removal upon
conditions to be prepared by the Borough Engineer and
approved by the Works Committee, the proceeds of any
such sale to be credited to Brooklands Recreation
Reserve account, and be used only for the purpose of
effecting permanent improvements in that Reserve."

Yours faithfully,

FTB. MC.

Town Clerk.

A letter from the Town Clerk to the Pukekura Park Committee confirming the fate of the Brooklands homestead. (Puke Ariki ARC2003-862/1)

1935

The year started with the Royal visit of Prince Henry the Duke of Gloucester who was the third son of King George V.

Robert Clinton Hughes passed away on January 18, 1935, at the age of 87. Hughes had the distinction of being the oldest practicing solicitor in the country. He was very much a community man and had been on the Park Board since its inception in 1875. In honour of Mr Hughes, the path from the Victoria Road entrance at the corner of Gilbert Street to the bandstand was named Hughes Walk. These days the path bearing his name runs all the way to the Brookland Road entrance.

The concept of Kauri Grove, the plantation between Brooklands Road and the gables was introduced by Horton in 1935. He wanted to have a plantation of all the native timber trees in New Zealand, especially Kauri. The area chosen was described as rough wasteland, partly swamp and partly a hill slope covered with fern, gorse, blackberry and broom. The land required a lot of preparation, clearing the unwanted growth and draining the swamp, boundary fences between the park and private residences were also erected.

The Wiggins memorial built in 1903 to commemorate Clement Wiggins who died while on service in South Africa in 1900 was removed from the park. Over the years it had been the object of vandalism on several occasions. A cypress tree was planted in its place.

Plant diseases were becoming an issue in the park and Thomas Horton at one of the committee meetings Stated, "Insect pests and fungus diseases of various types are prevalent on many of the native and exotic trees in this park, both in the old Pukekura Park area and in Brooklands. For many years there have been signs of the pests but they are now spreading to an alarming extent, and if they continue unchecked for a few more years, the lives of many trees will be in jeopardy and the disfigurement of the foliage serious."

The native trees most seriously affected were kapuka, rewarewa, kawa-kawa, mapau, karaka, porokaiwhiri, several varieties of olearia, mairehou, puriri and many others. Most of the varieties of large growing timber trees were not seriously affected, but Mr. Horton could not say if any species or variety were absolutely immune. The trees attacked most seriously were the large glossy foliated varieties. Exotic trees badly affected were the strawberry tree, English holly, and a few others. This issue was a country wide problem.

PESTS AND CURES

Specimens of infested trees were submitted to Mr. David Miller, chief of the entomological department of the Cawthron Institute, who said the plants were infested by several different insects.

The bleaching or mottling of the leaves of rewarewa and rhododendron was caused by a thrips, which were found in summer under the leaves. The young were usually pale in colour, while the adults were blackish. Applications of black-leaf-40 or volck oil was efficacious. The black growth on the puriri and kawakawa was a fungus that grew on the honey-dew secreted by scale insects on the tree. Volck oil was probably the most satisfactory remedy.

Some of the ferns were infested by a small white scale, while others did not appear to be damaged by insects. The ferns might be treated with nicotine and soap (as it was not known how they would stand the oil), 1.25 teaspoons full of black-leaf-40 to one gallon of water, in which about 1oz of soap was dissolved. It was best to wash this off the fern after two or three hours.

Other pests were, red spider, native scale, aphid of sorts and shot hole fungus. These could all be effectively controlled and in some cases exterminated by the use of insecticides and fungicides. Three applications a year for the first two years would be necessary and afterwards one or two at most, according to the condition of the trees.

For thrip, spider, scale, aphid and other insect pests a formula of quick lime, Sulphur and salt, or red oil emulsion, or black-leaf-40, or volck oil might be used. Any of these were effective if properly prepared and applied by a motor sprayer. For fungoid diseases such as shot hole fungus Bordeaux mixture, which was a mixture of pure sulphate of copper and fresh unslaked lime, or Vermorite, a patent French preparation, was effective in controlling or even in eradicating the disease.

Ordinary hand-spraying pumps and syringes, though very good for small garden areas, would be of little use in a park such as Pukekura. A power spraying outfit was essential. With this the staff could effectively spray for a distance of approximately 60 feet on either side of the drives and paths and reach upwards 20 to 25 feet.



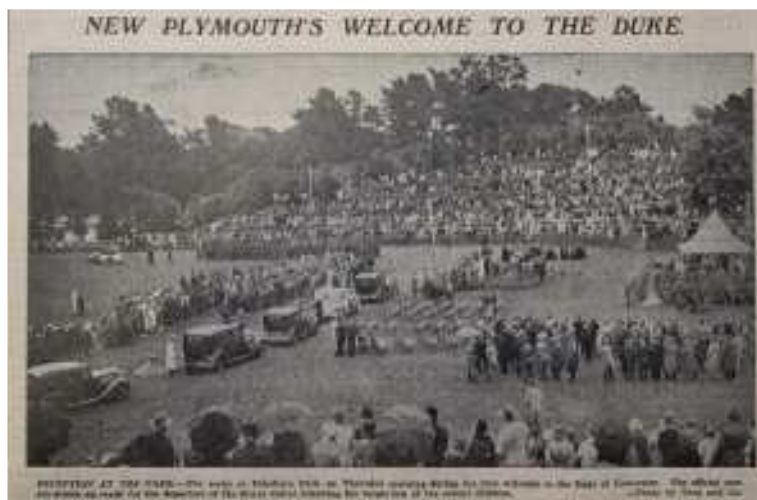
Eastern terraces circa 1935 (Puke Arika PHO2010-0042)

THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER VISITS TARANAKI
LOYAL WELCOME GIVEN
THOUSANDS IN STREETS AND PARK
NEW PLYMOUTH GREETES DUKE
Warm-Hearted Affection Shown

welcome exemplifying the unassuming loyalty of British subjects throughout the Empire given by the people of New Plymouth and the surrounding districts to His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester, on the occasion of the Royal visit this morning. Despite previous downpours, and threatening rain a large crowd lined the streets and thronged Pukekura Park to welcome the Duke of Gloucester. Bursts of cheering marked the progress of the Royal visitor whose friendly smile, ready wave of the hand and unassuming manner won him a permanent place in the hearts of all who saw him.

The weather, after some days of rain, tried hard to keep fine for the auspicious occasion. However, light rain fell at Pukekura Park during the ceremony of welcome. This may have marred somewhat the pageantry of the gathering, but it in no wise served to damp the ardour and enthusiasm of those who attended. Thousands of people lined the terraces and roadway surrounding the sportsground on which a dais had been erected for the reception of the Duke. There were spontaneous cheers and applause as the Duke entered the grounds and also at various times during his speech and during his Inspection of the units assembled on parade. However, for the most part the crowd was quiet—an undemonstrative but deeply impressive tribute which spoke the feelings of those present more eloquently than any noisy articulation could have done.

The Duke of Gloucester spent some time in meeting personally official representatives who attended the reception, greeting with a hearty handshake those presented to him. In his Inspection of the assembled units he occasionally paused to chat with one of those in the ranks of the various parties. The Duke appeared, as evidenced elsewhere in his New Zealand tour, particularly interested in the school children assembled. Despite the fact that the school holidays have drawn many children away from their homes, there was good muster of Taranaki's younger generation at the park.

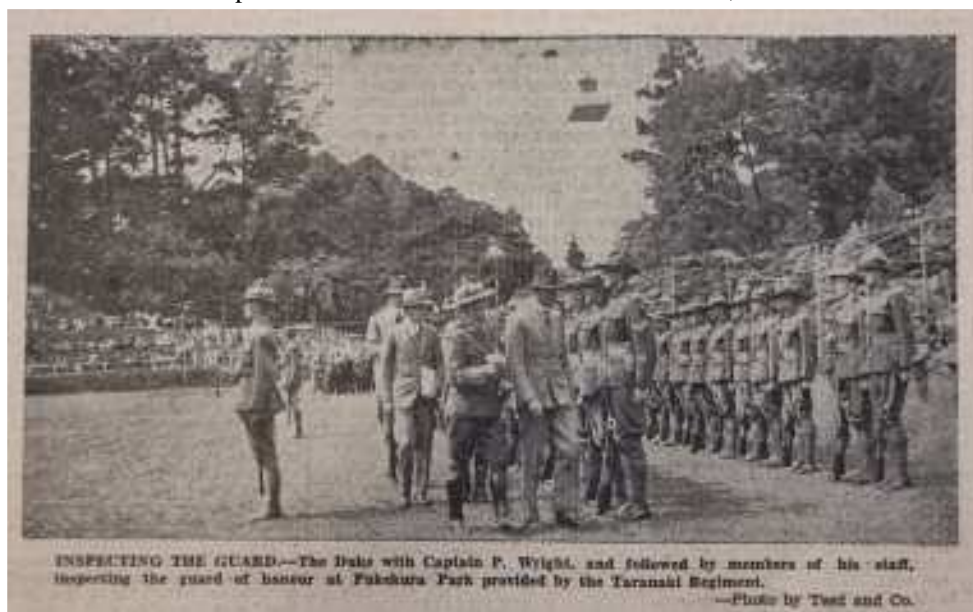


BROOKLANDS VISITED

FAMOUS OLD CHESTNUT TREE

DUKE IMPRESSED BY GROUNDS.

Duke of Gloucester was deeply impressed with the beauty of Brooklands, according to the Mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, who escorted him on an extensive walk about the grounds following the official welcome in Pukekura Park. The beautiful flower beds and native bush pleased him very much, said Mr. Gilmour. The famous old chestnut tree he regarded as the finest he had ever seen. He paid close attention to some of the oldest trees, the brief histories of which were related to him.



The Duke's one regret, said Mr. Gilmour, was that Mt. Egmont was not visible, for Brooklands bush provides an almost perfect frame for it.

Just before he entrained for the south, he informed Mr. Gilmour that he regretted being unable to spend longer in New Plymouth. What little he had seen had impressed him with the fact that New Plymouth was an unusually pretty town. In fact, he could scarcely imagine a prettier setting for such a gathering as the official welcome as the sportsground in Pukekura park.

During his drive through the park from and back to the Gilbert Street entrance he exhibited keen interest in the native trees and inquired the names of several.



WELCOME TO THE ROYAL GUEST! SCENES ON THE TOUR AT NEW PLYMOUTH AND FLOCK HOUSE

The Plymouth's official welcome to the Duke of Gloucester took place in the beautiful surroundings of Teahana Park and was a bright occasion. A shower of rain fell, but the Duke put on a raincoat and walked between the ranks of children. He received a few flowers from the crowd.

- 1. Children waiting in the lines at Teahana Park.
- 2. The Duke of Gloucester shaking hands with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Freeman at New Plymouth.
- 3. Mr. Freeman, who is a Member for the seat, has met every prominent person who has visited the New Zealand.
- 4. A general view of the reception at Teahana Park, New Plymouth.
- 5. The Duke standing in a 1952 old model Ford New Plymouth Tourist.
- 6. Imposing the medals of The Order at New Plymouth.

TH, JANUARY 18, 1935

PIONEER PASSES

**DEATH OF MR. R. C. HUGHES
LONG CAREER AS SOLICITOR.**

The death occurred at his residence, Vivian Street, this morning, of Mr. Robert Clinton Hughes, widely known solicitor and very old resident of the district. Mr. Hughes had not been well for some time past, but continued to take a keen interest in local affairs and particularly in Pukekura Park.

The distinction of being the oldest practicing solicitor in New Zealand was held by Mr. Hughes. He was admitted to the bar in New Zealand in 1870.

Born at Auckland 1847, seven years after New Zealand became a colony of the British Government, Mr. Hughes came early in his life to New Plymouth, being articled to a solicitor, Mr. W. Halse. AS soon as he was qualified he set up on his own account and had practiced and lived at New Plymouth ever since. His father, Mr. Robert Hughes, was a Salopian who had come to Australia and New Zealand attached to the military.

During his life in New Plymouth, Mr. Hughes had a distinguished record of public service. Some idea of the length of that service can be gathered when it is recalled that he was a foundation member of the Pukekura Park Board and the last surviving member of the old Taranaki Provincial Council. To the last he gave public service to several bodies that had always had his stout allegiance. One of these was the Pukekura Park Committee, another the New Plymouth Beautifying Society, and a third the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The guardianship or the inheritance of Nature for future generations had been the especial care of Mr. Hughes. To name only one instance, there was his leadership in the defense of the landmark Paritutu when it was in danger of destruction as a source of rock for the breakwater.

His wit was not blunted by the years. Not so long ago when the former Park Board was pressing its campaign against old pines too eagerly in the opinion of Mr. Hughes, the board was making a tour of inspection and marking dead and dying timber for falling. When the board paused for a moment in its work the voice of Mr. Hughes was heard asking with irony, "What about this one?" Following his gaze, they saw beside them the tall flagpole at the racecourse that overlooks the park.

Not only his wit, but his memory also was sometimes astonishing. When a few years ago Pukekura Park was handed over to the New Plymouth Borough Council the main speech at the ceremony was made by Mr. Hughes. Before the meeting began he gave a type-written copy of his speech to the reporters. He spoke for almost an hour, tracing the history and growth of the park without once referring to his notes. To the astonishment and admiration of the reporters his speech, given entirely from memory, corresponded almost exactly

word for word with the typewritten copies he had handed to them.

The funeral will take place on Sunday.

TH, FEBRUARY 13, 1935

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park committee WAS held last night, those present being Messrs. F. Amoore (acting-chairman), C. E. Bellringer, H. Dempsey, E. Jackson, E. King, W. F. Short and E. J. Carr.

The sportsground committee were given authority to proceed with the erection of a set of concrete steps at the north east corner of the playing area.

A sub-committee consisting of the Hon. James McLeod and Messrs. Bellringer and Amoore was set up to investigate the matter of legacies to Pukekura Park and to confer with the Borough Council.

At a previous meeting the committee had proposed that where funds were held by trustees for purposes of Pukekura park, such funds should where possible be transferred to the council, subject to the same trusts.

It had also suggested that the committee should consider the question of obtaining legislative authority to enable the council to establish a fund, the interest alone of which should be available for maintenance and permanent work in the park and into which fund should be paid bequests to the park (not given upon trust for a specific work) already received and not expended and all future bequests of a similar nature, the idea of the council being that where a general bequest was made the principal should always be retained intact.

The Hon. J. McLeod, chairman of the committee, who is absent in Wellington, wrote suggesting that the matter should be deferred and referred to a special sub-committee to investigate. His idea was that precautions should be taken to ensure that the whole amount of any legacy received would not necessarily be transferred to the council only the interest accruing therefrom being available. The committee in consultation with the council should decide how much, if any, of a legacy might be applied to capital expenditure and the balance transferred to the council in trust to produce revenue.

A motion of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess for their generous offer to pay for the enclosing of the flower beds around the kiosk with suitable wire-netting.

NAMING A WALK

The naming of one of the walks in Pukekura Park after the late Mr. R. C. Hughes was deferred until a later meeting. The walk from the Carrington Road entrance of the park to the band rotunda was suggested as being the most suitable.

The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that since the last meeting the principal works put in hand had been the demolition of the bridge near the corner of Victoria Road and Gilbert Street and the erection of a new bridge in its place,

the painting of the roof of the pavilion on the sportsground, the erection of the balance of the signs and notices, concrete kerbing at Brooklands, the construction of a small bridge over the open drain in paddock near Brooklands Road, some repairs at the Gables, the mowing of long grass on the outskirts of the park and the terraces and general maintenance work.

The water-supply had been most unsatisfactory and he had had to report the matter to the Borough Council. This had now been put right and appeared to be satisfactory.

Both Brooklands and the Pukekura area of the parks were now suffering from the hot, dry weather. Otherwise everything was in satisfactory order and condition.

Mr. Jackson remarked that the track from the sportsground to the racecourse was very dusty and he was sure that if some improvement were made it would be much appreciated.

Members agreed that it would be useless to lay sand on the track as the first fall of rain would immediately scour it away. No action was taken.

TH, MARCH 13, 1935

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met at New Plymouth last night. Present were: Messrs. P. Amoore (chairman), H. Dempsey, E. Jackson, C. N. Johnson, W. Short, T. Horton, C. E. Bellringer, F. Parker, and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

It was decided to name the walk leading into the park from lower Victoria Road "Hughes Walk," in commemoration of the late Mr. R. C. Hughes, who was founder of the park. A fitting permanent nameplate will also be erected as a guide to visitors who are unacquainted with the work of the late Mr. Hughes. Messrs. Stainton, Short and Amoore were appointed a committee to look into the matter.

In reply to a letter from the Governor-General's secretary asking it were possible to place member of the Governor's staff in employment for the board, it was stated that owing to the number of local unemployed the board could not see its way to comply the request.

A committee comprising Messrs. Bellringer, Amoore and Jackson was appointed to look into the state of the Pukekura Park Board's finances for the coming months.

The begonias in the begonia house at Brooklands were far from looking their best. said Mr. Bellringer, who added that it was nearly eight years since fresh corms had been ordered. He considered that the money secured from the sale of the grapes should go towards the procuring of new corms.

With regard to the reinforcing of the top four or five terraces on the eastern side of the sportsground and the roofing over or the Fillis Street fence for wet weather, it was decided to obtain an estimate of the cost from the borough engineer.

He considered that two top terraces on the western side were an eyesore, said

Mr. Bellringer, on account of their dilapidated state, and it would perhaps be an asset if a different type or tree were planted there.

Mr. Jackson said he thought the best plan would be to level them off, so that spectators could sit on the sward.

Mr. Horton, the park superintendent, stated that the work of levelling the terraces off should not entail much expenditure. It was agreed that the work be proceeded with.

During storm periods, such as the recent heavy rain, a great deal of silt is washed down into the lakes from the Vogeltown side of the park. Mr. Horton considered that staff at present was too small to cope with the work thus entailed. They had done their best for some years, but this annoyance was becoming increasingly large. The dam built a few years ago by the Borough Council was proving ineffective for coping with the silt difficulty.

A committee was appointed to inquire into the problem.

TH, APRIL 3, 1935
SILTATION AT PARK
UPPER LAKE DAMAGED
TWO ARMS BLOCKED.
CONSTRUCTION OF TERRACES.

Serious siltation, which may ultimately lead to the bed of the southern half of the upper lake being raised by several feet, has occurred in Pukekura Park as a result of the recent floods. The task of dealing with the spoil is too great to be undertaken by the staff engaged in the maintenance of the park.

Two large arms of the lake, in the south-west part of the park have been almost completely filled up. Each arm is from six to eight chains long and about 20 feet wide and several tons of spoil have been required to fill them.

A feeder stream, whose course is down one of the arms, is now confined to a narrow channel in mud, and it is possible to walk in the other arm.

The danger from the siltation lies in the fact that the loose spoil is likely to be swept into the lake by the winter freshes, raising the bed considerably as far as the main bridge half-way along the lake.

The staff at Pukekura Park is chiefly engaged with the reconstruction of terraces on the southern side of the sportsground. Two half-formed terraces at the top of the southern bank are being reconstructed, their height being cut down from eight feet to five feet, giving an additional terrace. Additional men have been engaged for this. Other terraces in this part of the sportsground are being cleared up and improved.

Specifications for the proposed alteration to the eastern series of terraces are still awaited. Extensive reconstruction will be necessary if the park committee decide to proceed with this work.

The other improvement in view, the establishment of the botanical reserve in the gully in Fillis Street will probably not be begun until the end of the autumn. Preliminary work, the cleaning of the

area and preparation of plots for the plants, has already been carried out.

It is hoped to be able to continue the display of blooms in the fernery through the winter, though the begonias, which have made such an attractive. Show through the summer are now nearly finished. In the winter cinerarias, calceolarias and cyclamens will be on show. The ferns themselves are practically unchanged, being an attractive and healthy array of plants.

TH, APRIL 10, 1935
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
REPAIRING FLOOD DAMAGE

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night, those present Messrs. F. Amooore (acting chairman), E. R. C. Gilmour, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, F. S. Varnham, C. E. Bellringer, N. Johnson and P. E. Stainton.

The superintendent Mr. T. Horton, reported on the main works carried out during the month. The main road leading from the sportsground towards the band rotunda and the back drive to the Tea House had been grubbed up, reformed and graded and metalled. This was made essential on account of scouring after the recent heavy rains. The road to the racecourse had also been re-formed and metalled after removing all the surface roots and regrading where necessary.

The area at Brooklands, planted with trees last year, was now being overhauled; fern, gorse, blackberry and heavy grass growth were all being mown and burned and clearing had been done around the trees preparatory to digging around them during the coming winter.

The recent heavy rains not only brought much silt into the upper reaches of the lakes but badly scoured the drive to Brooklands. This was in bad condition and should have a little gaol metal put on to patch it up. In the sportsground, in spite of the exceptional rainfall, the athletic clubs, the primary schools and also the cricketers were able to hold all their competitions without any serious damage to the grounds. All drains carried the surplus water away efficiently.

Cricket was now over for the season and all bare patches in the grass had been re-sown and the seed was now well up. The ground was in excellent condition for the football season. It was hoped that the improvements to the western terraces would be completed before Easter.

In conjunction with Mr. Johnson, of the Sportsground Committee, they had made an inspection of the grounds and more especially of the pavilion, and it was their opinion that the place should have a thorough internal overhaul and that a separate room be provided for the tools and equipment of the groundsman. If this could be done at once it would considerably improve conditions for all who used the building and also for the groundsman.

The application of metal as recommended by Mr. Horton was authorised. The matter of the pavilion is being dealt

with. A short discussion also took place on the expenditure over the past year.

TH, MAY 6, 1935
LOYAL DEMONSTRATION
NEW PLYMOUTH REJOICES
GATHERING IN SUNSHINE
THANKSGIVING BY NINE
THOUSAND

Nine thousand voices were raised in cheers in Pukekura Park this morning when military units, schools, and many other bodies gathered to express thanksgiving for twenty-five years of sovereignty by His Majesty, King George V. The enthusiasm which was the outstanding feature of this morning's service showed that love of the ruler and loyalty to the Throne and Empire are the bonds which guard the Empire's solidarity. The cheering reverberated throughout the park, as did the feu-de-joie.

Here and there on the terraces a Union Jack waved, while on the southern terrace a strange coincidence found red, white and blue the dominant dress colourings. Although the morning was cold and the ground damp, the enthusiasm steadily increased to the climax in the singing of the National Anthem. None could help but be inspired by the sincere demonstration of loyalty.

TH, MAY 8, 1935
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
WORK ON THE TERRACES
BOROUGH ENGINEER PREPARING
PLANS.

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. Present were: Hon. J. McLeod, M.L.C. (chairman). Messrs. F. Amooore, F. Parker, C. N. Johnson, W. F. Short, E. J. Carr, T. Horton (park superintendent), C. Clarke (borough engineer). C. E. Bellringer and E. Jackson.

In his report the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, stated that the staff had been engaged for a greater part of the time in work on the sportsground. The new work on the western terrace had been completed, bare patches rectified, new seats erected, and the old seats overhauled. The football season had opened, Anzac Day celebrations had been held, and also celebrations in connection with the King's Jubilee. A good deal of work was necessary to have everything in readiness for these functions, but all work had been completed in time. The grounds were in excellent order for the aforementioned events. A new man was put on temporarily and was proving most satisfactory. Most of the lawn mowers, both at Brooklands and Pukekura Park, had been re-set and put in order. It would cost £17 to re-form and complete the three top terraces on the southern end of the sportsground. This did not include the cost of making concrete steps or any means of approach. General maintenance work at the fernery and Brooklands had been done as usual. The question of renovating terraces in Pukekura Park was brought under discussion. Mr. C. Clarke, the borough engineer, said he considered that the

eastern terraces in their present state were a source of danger to the public. So far there had been no accidents. Rough plans had drawn up, and the idea was to commence work on the top terraces first, leaving the bottom ones untouched for the present.

Hon. J. McLeod: This can be done as an unemployment job, I understand. The superintendent's budget not an elaborate one, but well up to our subsidy.

Mr. Jackson reported that the terraces had been inspected and Mr. Clarke had shown what could be done. The idea was not only to increase accommodation but to make the terraces safe for the public. Mr. Clarke's scheme was a good one and spoil for the work could be deposited at the end of the terraces and carted from there.

Mr. Amoores: This is really a matter for the finance committee, and they can report as to ways and means.

There was no doubt that the top eastern terraces were not safe, said Mr. Short.

It was suggested at one time, said Mr. Bellringer, that the trees on the top of the southern terraces should be cut down, but this would let the wind in.

Hon. J. McLeod: The new terraces on the east side running northwards will increase the accommodation.

Mr. Clarke: Yes, about 50 per cent.

The engineer was authorised to proceed with the preparation of the plans, and next Tuesday night the finance committee will report on the financial aspect.

**TH, JUNE 12, 1935
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

The special work authorised on the terraces and the sportsground had been started and was progressing satisfactorily, reported the superintendent, Mr. T. H. Horton, at last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee. There were present the Hon. J. McLeod (chairman) and Messrs. E. R. C. Gilmour, W. F. Short, F. Parker, F. S. Varnham, N. Johnson and P. E. Stainton (secretary). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. Amoores and E. Jackson. The superintendent (Mr. T. H. Horton) also attended.

The superintendent continued that if it had not been for loss of time through wet weather and holidays the work would have been further advanced. The three western terraces which had been worked on were looking well and the turf faces were knitting splendidly. The new shed was also completed and necessary work on water-tables done. A start had also been made with work on the water-lily pond. Slippery paths had been treated with shingle and water-tables cleaned out. The level of the water in the large lake had had to be lowered by two feet to allow borough workmen to deal with the siltation of the upper portion of the lake. The recent storm had brought down a number of dead limbs and leaves and the park was looking very untidy. However, this was being dealt with, and thanks were due to the Returned Soldiers' Association for providing labour.

At Brooklands the usual autumn work was being carried out, including the clearing of fallen leaves, overhauling flower beds and planting bulbs. The reserve was in good order and condition. With the permanent staff of two at Brooklands, extra casual labour would have to be provided when necessary.

The superintendent was authorised to have the boats at Pukekura Park cleaned and painted.

**SPREAD OF DISEASE
NATIVE BUSH THREATENED
PUKEKURA PARK POSITION.
MR. HORTON TO DRAW UP
REPORT.**

"Everything in nature and plant life seems to be getting disease, and it is increasingly difficult to keep plants healthy and strong, said Mr. T. H. Horton, superintendent of Pukekura Park, outlining the position being created by the spread of native scale among native trees to the Pukekura Park committee last night. After Mr. Horton had pointed out the position in the park, which he said was becoming worse from year to year, he was asked to draw up a comprehensive report on the situation and suggest remedial measures.

Every year he noticed a big increase in the incidence of native scale on trees, continued Mr. Horton. Most varieties of heavy foliated native trees had apparently a black smut on them. The scale was not considered a foreign disease, but a native one. Wherever one went in the bush, even away from towns, the disease could be seen spreading through the lower branches.

"In Pukekura Park the spread is so serious that at times I wonder what the future is going to be for us. I feel that the time is not far distant when the native bush will have to be sprayed as in an orchard."

Mr. Horton said that a satisfactory motor spraying plant could be obtained to spray the bush up to a height of 30 feet, covering the foliage with a heavy dew. With such a plant, costing about £250, the whole of the bush in the park, in a distance of 25 feet on each side of the paths, could be dealt with in a day.

EXPERIMENTS SATISFACTORY.

In answer to the chairman (the Hon. J. McLeod) Mr. Horton stated that he had obtained satisfactory results from experiments with various preparations.

The chairman agreed that in the future something would have to be done. The committee had a big area to look after and perhaps a plant such as suggested by Mr. Horton, might be necessary.

Mr. Horton pointed to the success the introduction of the steel-backed ladybird, as a natural enemy to the scale attacking citrus trees, had been. The position was getting so serious that consideration would have to be given to the best way of dealing with it.

Mr. N. Johnson suggested that action now might be the means of saving the committee a good deal of money in the future.

"Visitors are asking what is the matter with the trees," stated Mr. Horton. "They

were saying that the trees were diseased."

Mr. Johnson agreed that the puritis in several places in the park were affected. The chairman considered that the disease must have an effect on vitality of the trees.

Mr. Horton said that there was a danger of himself and his staff being blamed by the public, because they were neglecting to control pests and disease. However, unless there was a special effort and funds and machinery provided it was practically impossible to control the scale. It could not be done in the ordinary course of duties. Even if the committee did do work in its area, there was always the danger from surrounding infected trees.

HAVE TO BE ON NATIONAL SCALE.

It seems to me that control work will have to be on a national scale, continued Mr. Horton. "Otherwise, we are going to be almost wiped out of our choicest and best evergreen flora." He said that most of the small reserves round New Plymouth, the cemetery and the Workers' Social Hall plots, were badly affected. The whole question should be dealt with by an entomologist. He mentioned Mr. W. W. Smith a suitable person and also thought that the Government entomologist and the Cawthron Institute should be approached. Perhaps the matter should be dealt with municipally and a municipal plant made available for the parks.

Mr. McLeod suggested that Mr. Horton and Mr. F. Parker, and others if possible, be asked to draw up a treatise on the question. The committee realised how serious the question could become and would want to know what the damage from the disease was and Mr. Horton's suggestions for combatting spread. The committee would certainly help where it could.

Mr. Short considered that the question was certainly not one which should be rushed.

The scale was also bad on the Kaitake Ranges, Mr. Parker said.

It seemed that New Zealand could no longer grow produce without blight, said Mr. Short. Blight now attacked everything. He instanced peach trees, which he said at one time could be grown everywhere, but which now had to be most carefully nursed.

Mr. Horton said that fungoid growth had ruined the constitution of the peach trees and in New Zealand to-day these trees had not the hardiness of the old ones. ---

AUCKLAND STAR, JULY 2, 1935

OBITUARY

MR. JOHN WHEELER

A well-known resident of New Plymouth, Mr. John Wheeler, has died aged 82 years. He was a native of New Plymouth and a recognised authority on New Zealand flora. Mr. Wheeler did a lot of carving and fashioning of Maori figures from punga trees. The figures which adorn the entrance to the fernery in Pukekura Park are part of his handwork. His knowledge of New

Zealand bush made him of great assistance to the Pukekura Park authorities in getting together their first collection of New Zealand ferns. Mr. Wheeler's wife died some years ago. He is survived by two sons and one daughter.

TH, JULY 10, 1935

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

To consider placing the Pukekura Park Committee in a position to lease its Gover Street sections and any others thought desirable, the committee has arranged to meet the town clerk, Mr. F. T. Bellringer, and the borough engineer, Mr. C. Clarke, on July 18. This decision was made by the committee at its meeting last night, when there were present Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), E. J. Carr, N. Johnson, W. F. Short, C. E. Bellringer, F. Parker, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent). Apologies for were received from the Hon. James McLeod, Messrs. E. R. C. Gilmour, E. Jackson, and F. S. Varnham.

New terrace formation had been the major work during the month, reported the superintendent. Bad weather had hindered the progress of that work. The lower two terraces would be ready for turfing in a few days. The deepening of the lily lake was progressing, the spoil being used partly in the park. The remainder would be easily disposed of. The deepening work had uncovered several pine logs which had evidently been there for several years. They were being cut for removal, and the timber was found to be remarkably sound. It appeared to have solidified and had taken on a bluish slatey colour. The softest parts of the main paths, affected by excessive rain, had been reformed and metalled. The Borough Council employees had completed the removal of the mud and debris from the upper reaches of the large lake. In order to prevent stock entering the reserve, the boundary fence at the racecourse had been repaired. The five hundred macrocarpa trees procured from the Borough Council had been planted. A further one hundred and also one hundred lawsoniana plants were required to complete this season's shelter planting. During the month gales had damaged the trees in the park and a few very large pine branches were broken. Mr. Short was thanked for the gift of a cypress tree, which had planted on the old memorial site.

TH, JULY 10, 1935

**PARK TREES DISEASED
INSECTS AND FUNGUS PESTS
ALARMING SPREAD NOTED.
SERIOUS FOLIAGE
DISFIGUREMENT**

"Insects pests and fungus diseases of various types are prevalent on many of the native and exotic trees in this park, both in the old Pukekura Park area and in Brooklands. For many years there have been signs of the pests but they are now spreading to an alarming extent, and if they continue unchecked for a few

more years, the lives of many trees will be in jeopardy and the disfigurement of the foliage serious." These remarks were made in a report to the Pukekura Park Committee last night by the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, and resulted in the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, and the superintendent being instructed to inquire the costs of power sprays.

The native trees most seriously affected were kapuka, rewarewa, kawa-kawa, mapau, karaka, porokaiwhiri, several varieties of olearia, mairehou, puriri and many others.

Most of the varieties of large growing timber trees were not seriously affected, but Mr. Horton could not say if any species or variety were absolutely immune. The trees attacked most seriously were the large glossy foliaged varieties.

Exotic trees badly affected were the strawberry tree, English holly, and a few others.

The diseases affecting the trees were not confined to Pukekura Park, but were prevalent more or less on native flora all over the North Island.

The chief among the pests were known as thrip, red spider, native scale, aphid of sorts and shot hole fungus. These could all be effectively controlled and in some cases exterminated by the use of insecticides and fungicides. Three applications a year for the first two years would be necessary and afterwards one or two at most, according to the condition of the trees.

For thrip, spider, scale, aphid and other insect pests a formula of quick lime, Sulphur and salt, or red oil emulsion, or black-leaf-40, or volck oil might be used. Any of these were erective if properly prepared and applied by a motor sprayer. For fungoid diseases such as shot hole fungus Bordeaux mixture, which was a mixture of pure sulphate of copper and fresh unslaked lime, or Vermorite, a patent French preparation, was effective in controlling or even in eradicating the disease.

Ordinary hand-spraying pumps and syringes, though very good for small garden areas, would be of little use in a park such as Pukekura. A power spraying outfit was essential. With this the staff could effectively spray for a distance of approximately 60 feet on either side of the drives and paths and reach upwards 20 to 25 feet.

The specimens submitted were infested by several different insects, wrote Mr. David Miller, chief of the entomological department of the Cawthron Institute, to whom specimens had been forwarded.

The bleaching or mottling of the leaves of rewarewa and rhododendron was caused by a thrips, which was found in summer under the leaves. The young were usually pale in colour, while the adults were blackish. Applications of black-leaf-40 or volck oil was efficacious. The black growth on the puriri and kawakawa was a fungus that grew on the honey-dew secreted by scale insects on the tree. Volck oil was probably the most satisfactory remedy.

Some of the ferns were infested by a small white scale, while others did not appear to be damaged by insects. The ferns might be treated with nicotine and soap (as it was not known how they would stand the oil), 1.25 teaspoons full of black-leaf-40 to one gallon of water, in which about 1oz of soap was dissolved. It was best to wash this off the fern after two or three hours.

TH, AUGUST 14, 1935

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

In New Plymouth last night. Present were: Hon. J. McLeod (chairman) and Messrs. F. Amooore, N. Johnson, F. S. Varnham, E. R. C. Gilmour, E. Jackson, W. F. Short, T. Horton (superintendent) and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

The park superintendent's report stated that on account of much wet weather during the past month they had been considerably hampered in work at the park, especially in work on the new terraces. The latter work was being pushed on in order to have turfing completed before the dry season came and when the terraces and seats were completed they would last for a long time, excepting for periodical minor repairs. The playing area was standing up to the wear and tear well. The particular kind of grass being used was proving most satisfactory.

It was now possible to maintain the pavilion in decent order, a fact which was much appreciated by the teams using it. The high fence enclosing the fernery area had required attention, many of the posts and stays being rotten. The fence had been overhauled and new ponga posts and battens put in. Hydrangeas, roses and all shrubs requiring pruning had been pruned and all flower beds had been dug ready for spring planting. Eighty pongas had been planted in various parts of the park and 50 native trees had been added to the Fillis Street planting.

At Brooklands 200 lawsoniana had been planted for sheltering the bush gully and the rose beds had been renewed by the planting of about 48 new trees in place of a similar number that were old and diseased. Black soil was being brought from the back of Brooklands to fill up the drive leading to the old homestead site so that the lawn could be extended over this area and for top-dressing the lawn put down last year.

Considerable noxious weed growth, such as fern, blackberry, gorse and broom, was growing in some of the paddocks at Brooklands and needed attention, but the permanent staff had not the time to do the work and relief workers were not permitted to do it. Returned soldiers had refused the work.

Mr. Jackson proposed an extension of the eastern terraces in Pukekura Park towards the south, building sod walls in front, and dumping the earth behind these and tamping so as to consolidate. Then the turfing could be proceeded with immediately.

Work in the southern terraces to be postponed until next autumn.

TREE PLANTATION
(Kauri Grove)
THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
BOARD MEMBERS EXPRESS
APPROVAL

Some time ago Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, was asked by the board governing the park to bring down a report on the area he considered most suitable for establishing a tree plantation, consisting of New Zealand forest timber trees. At last night's meeting of the board Mr. Horton submitted his report as follows:

"There is a very large area (from 30 to 40 acres) of native bush in Pukekura Park, comprising mostly all those dwarf and medium growing varieties such as are common in the native bush of this coast, and growing amongst them are only a few or the principal timber trees. We have practically every variety of timber tree, but only in small numbers, and there are more kohekohe than any other variety. The idea of planting an area in all our best timber trees is an excellent one in my opinion, and I strongly urge that it be done, especially in view of the fact that every variety does well in the park and no experimental planting will be necessary.

INTEREST IN GENERATIONS TO COME

"There is no doubt that a plantation such as this would be of intense interest to generations to come. I do not know of any area embracing these varieties ever having been planted in any part of the Dominion before. You will notice that in my list of trees given below I have suggested more than double the number of kauris than any other variety.

My reason for this is that, although this tree does not grow naturally south of the Auckland province, those that have been planted here have done remarkably well. The memorial kauri planted on the lawn in front of the park fernery in 1929 is now 11ft. 7in. in height and has a circumference of 11in. six inches above the ground level. Others planted in 1928 are 12ft. 9in. high, with a circumference of 10in. The avenue of kauris planted on the John Street border was planted in 1925 and one of these measures 16ft. in height and 11.25in. in circumference. The tree opposite the boathouse, which was planted in 1914, now measures 46ft. in height, with a circumference of 48in. two feet from the ground, and has a diameter of 15 to 16in. This last-mentioned tree has had no cultivation, whereas all the others have.

KAURIS AS SPECIAL FEATURE.

"Considering all the facts, I have no hesitation in recommending that kauris be made the special feature of the new plantation if the scheme is adopted. After a careful survey of all the park lands, I find that an area fronting Brooklands Road would be the most suitable site. This area is eminently suitable for such a project and could be prepared for planting in 1936. The matter of cost would be considerable one, and the minimum cost of the trees would not be less than £150 if purchased from a nurseryman in the ordinary way. To overcome this difficulty I would suggest

either the purchase or collection of one or two-year seedling plants and growing them in our own nursery. In one or two years they would be ready to plant in their permanent position and would probably cost only about half of the aforementioned sum.

"If the scheme is adopted," concluded Mr. Horton, "I would suggest that we receive what trees we can now and plant them in our nursery this spring. The area suggested can be extended to about double the size if necessary."

SUGGESTED TREES AND
QUANTITIES.

Mr. Horton suggested the following list of trees for the plantation: 250 each of white pine, totara, rimu, matai, puriri; 125 each of birch, hinau, maire, kohekohe, yellow pine, miro; 625 of kauri; total, 2750; also 200 Lawsoniana for shelter.

Members, in receiving the report, expressed approval of its comprehensiveness.

The Hon. J. McLeod, chairman of board, suggested the ploughing of five or six acres near Brooklands Road.

Mr. E. Jackson: Has any move been made to connect Pukekura Park and Brooklands?

The Hon. Mr. McLeod: There has, but it was rejected by the Borough Council.

Mr. F. Amooore asked if some of the board's bequest money would be available for the work if it was carried out.

The Hon. Mr. McLeod: "Yes, definitely, but we need a full meeting of the board to go fully into the matter." He considered that the scheme was one of the soundest they could embark upon.

It was decided to hold a field-day as soon as possible to go over the work and glean some idea of its extent.

TH, SEPTEMBER 11, 1935
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
SKYLINE AT PARK
TREES ON EASTERN TERRACE.
NECESSITY FOR FELLING.

The sky-line formed by the pines on the top of the terraces on the eastern side of the sportsground at Pukekura Park was the subject of brief discussion at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night. After some members had expressed an opinion that at least some of the pines must come down, and another had drawn attention to the fact that a wonderful skyline would then be lost, it was decided to defer action until the committee and the Borough Council have inspected the park.

Mr. F. Parker drew attention to the bad state of some of the pines in question, stating that it was time the committee considered the question of their removal. "They are getting very thin on top," said Mr. C. E. Bellringer.

Mr. N. Johnson considered that three or four pines on the southern end of the hill could very well be taken away.

"Their only use is the sky-line they form when looked at from the sportsground," said Mr. W. F. Short. "However, take

even a few of them away and the whole effect would be spoiled. Individually the trees are very poor, but the sky-line effect must be considered. There are only about eight or nine trees in all.

"We have to make the sacrifice some time or other," stated Mm Bellringer. "Those trees removed can be replaced by finer ones."

Mr. Parker pointed out that a fair amount of damage would be done to the new work in the Fillis Street gully by the falling trees.

"The trees should come down at once, and then we will make only one mess," said F. Amooore, chairman.

TH, SEPTEMBER 24, 1935
TREE PLANTING
PUKEKURA PARK AND
BROOKLANDS
10,000 NATIVE TREES.

Members of the Pukekura Park Committee and of the New Plymouth Borough Council paid a visit of inspection yesterday afternoon to Pukekura Park and Brooklands, and proposals made by the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, for an extensive plantation of native trees of the tall timber variety were discussed. The area is approximately one and a-half acres in extent, and faces the Brooklands Road, and the authority of the council will be sought to have the work undertaken under the heading of capital expenditure. If confirmed, the planting will be spread over a period or several years. The inspection yesterday was made by Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour (Mayor), and Councillors F. J. Hill, R. S. S. Richardson and F. Amooore, representing the Borough Council, and the Hon. Jas. McLeod, and Messrs. N. Johnson, E. J. Carr, E. King, E. Jackson, F. S. Varnham, H. Dempsey and W. F. Short (Pukekura Park Committee), Messrs. F. T. Bellringer (town clerk), C. Clarke (borough engineer) and T. Horton (parks superintendent) were also present.

The gradual disappearance during more recent years of such fine specimens of native bush as the white pine and kauri has given rise to considerable concern throughout the Dominion, and the park committee aims at preserving for all time a plantation of entirely native trees. With this in view the committee has selected a section of more than one and a-half acres on Brooklands Road. The greater part of the section, which is bounded by the road leading to Brooklands and the Gables property, is a sidling facing on to Brooklands Road. The property is now being used for grazing purposes, and has a good deal of fern and furze on it at present.

The scheme as at first outlined by Mr. Horton provided for 2800 trees, including 650 kauris, at a cost of £150. This proposal, however, did not include the planting of the top of the hill, or a small section at the back of the Gables, a work that the inspecting party considered should be included in the scheme. To plant the whole area it is estimated that about 10,000 trees will be required, and the cost of rearing them in the nursery, preparing the ground and

planting out will be in the vicinity of £500. The board, it is understood, has the money at its disposal and is seeking the authority of the Borough Council to treat the undertaking as a capital expenditure.

PLANTING OF BOUNDARIES.

Should the scheme meet with the approval of the council the first move will be to plant the boundaries with lawsoniana for shelter purposes. The ground will then be worked and prepared for the planting of trees in rows six feet apart. On the lower levels will be planted white pines, within which it is proposed to plant rows of kauri trees. By planting the trees in block formation the trees will more or less provide shelter for one another, and splendid growth is expected. It has been suggested that where necessary a fire break or Californian redwood, or some other fire-resisting trees, should be planted on the boundaries. Part of the area is low-lying and swampy, and on such places it is proposed to plant kahikatea.

The planting of the trees if the scheme meets with approval will done over a period of two or three years. A part of the area will be prepared for planting suitable shelter next autumn. The native trees will be propagated in the nursery and planted out when in strong condition. scheme was highly commended by members of the Borough Council, who will later have to consider the recommendations to be made by the park committee.

The felling of trees on the top of the eastern terrace of the sportsground and the completion of a native tree plantation in the gully at the back facing on to Fillis Street were also suggested. To date the eastern side of the gully has been planted in trees that are thriving under ideal conditions. The work on the western side has been delayed, as sooner or later the pines on the hill top will have to be removed and the only means of doing this is to fell them on to the section yet unplanted. The pine trees are said to have outlived their usefulness and their removal is advocated. With this in view kowhai, kauris and trees of a tall nature and rows of pohutukawa trees have been planted in the vicinity.

TH, OCTOBER 9, 1935 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING FELLING OF TREES

A suggestion that trees to be felled should be carefully marked as such by the committee in order to avoid allegations that wrong trees were being demolished was made to the Pukekura Park committee last night by Mr. C. E. Bellringer. The suggestion was made in a discussion arising from a telegram received from the chairman or the committee, the Hon. James McLeod. The telegram stated: "The committee will probably consider to-night the question of demolishing the pinus insignis above the eastern terrace. I think the dying one at the northern end and two or three straggly ones at the southern end of the clump should go and enable some more planting to be done."

"I don't like this cutting down of trees," said Mr. W. Short. "It only ruining the

skyline." If other trees had been planted some years ago they would now be ready to take the places of the others. This question was frequently discussed by the committee.

The committee should view the trees on the site, said Mr. P. E. Stainton.

"The trees are settling the question for themselves," said Mr. Bellringer.

"They are dying."

Mr. E. Jackson expressed the opinion that none of the trees or all of them should be cut in order to preserve a uniform sky-line. Other trees should have been planted years ago and they would have been a fair height by now. The removal of the other trees would then have resulted in lowering the skyline only. Years ago the sportsground appeared to be in the middle of the park. Now so many trees had been cut that the sportsground was scarcely a part of the park.

It was pointed out that the committee already had a resolution governing the cutting of trees, and Mr. Bellringer moved that the trees under discussion be inspected and a decision reached in conformity with the previous resolution. The trees to be cut should be marked to prevent allegations of the felling of wrong trees.

The resolution was carried.

TH, NOVEMBER 13, 1935 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING MEMORIAL GATES PROPOSED.

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night when there were present the Hon. J. McLeod (chairman), Messrs. E. J. Carr, H. Dempsey, F. Amooore, E. King, E. Jackson, C. N. Johnson, W. F. Short, F. S. Varnham, F. Parker, T. Horton (superintendent) and P. E. Stainton (secretary). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. C. E. Bellringer and E. R. Gilmour.

The financial statement of the board showed a credit balance of £111 17s 2s.

The committee resolved to make an inspection at 3 p.m. on Thursday of the trees on the eastern terrace to consider the advisability of their removal in order that the planting programme can be proceeded with.

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) reported that excessive rain had handicapped work at the park. The planting of flower beds and other work usually done at this time of the year had to be deferred until the ground became warmer. The abnormal growth of grass on the sportsground had necessitated more mowing than usual. The terraces were also looking well with the exception of those on the south side which should be reconstructed next season. Considerable work had been done on the cricket pitches and those using them had expressed satisfaction with the work done. The first competition match of the season had been played on Saturday on a fairly good wicket, but there had, however, been some criticism about its condition. He was of the opinion the match should have been played on matting. It was not

reasonable to expect first class wickets so early in the season.

The usual maintenance and work preparatory to planting had been done in the park proper and at Brooklands.

The proposal to build suitable war memorial gates at the main entrance to Pukekura Park and smaller gates at Brooklands was discussed by the committee. It was decided to approach the Borough Council with the idea of securing suitable plans and taking a further step towards the start of this work. The committee will wait on the finance committee of the Borough Council shortly to discuss the matter further.

Mr. E. Jackson expressed surprise that criticism had been made of the state of the cricket pitch. He had inspected the wicket since and considered it remarkably good and a great credit to the superintendent. The cricketers should take into consideration the fact that no sports greens were in the best order at this time of the year, but, with improving conditions, the wickets would roll down.

The secretary stated that the ground had been so sodden that the park staff had been unable to use the motor mower but had gone over the full area with grass mowers. It was not the condition of the pitch which was the trouble, but the abnormally wet conditions prevailing.

TH, DECEMBER 11, 1935 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING TREES AT PUKEKURA PARK BOARD FAVOURS REMOVAL

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night, the Hon. James McLeod presiding. Members present were Messrs. E. Carr, F. Amooore, E. King, E. Jackson, F. S. Varnham, W. F. Short, F. Parker, P. E. Stainton and T. Horton (superintendent).

The question of the removal of a row of trees at the rear of the sportsground was again raised, the chairman saying there was no doubt that the trees were unsightly.

Mr. Short claimed that the trees should not be removed till the others about them had grown to a reasonable height, so that no gap would be left the skyline. He moved that the matter be deferred for five years.

If the old trees were removed, claimed Mr. Parker, the young trees would grow at twice the present rate.

His objection to the removal, said Mr. Varnham was the gap that would be left in the skyline. He considered it would be better if the young trees could grow to a reasonable height first.

Mr. Stainton pointed out that if the trees were left for some years they would cause more damage to other growth when removed than if cut down now.

Mr. Varnham: Could they not be felled sideways?

Mr. Short: Yes.

The motion was then put and lost.

He thought the trees should go, said the chairman, and he moved that authority for their removal be given.

Mr. Stainton suggested that it would be better if the board expressed itself of the opinion that it was in the interests of the park that the trees should be removed, but that action be deferred for three months to give the general public an opportunity to express an opinion. General agreement was expressed and a motion passed to this effect.

COMPLAINT ABOUT WICKET.

Communications from the North Taranaki Cricket Association asked for a first-class wicket at Pukekura Park for the M.C.C. v. Taranaki match, and complained at the poor state of the wicket used for competition matches.

There was no doubt that the wicket was in a bad condition, said Mr. Jackson. The grass seemed to have died off and the wicket to have crumbled.

Mr. Horton stated that this was the first intimation he had received that the cricketers were not satisfied. If the wicket was not first-class it was the fault of the players themselves, as they persisted in playing on it against his advice on occasions when thought play should not take place. He pointed out that the best wicket was being saved for use in the M.C.C. match and would be in first-class order then.

It was decided to write to the association acknowledging their letter but expressing surprise that the park superintendent had not been approached regarding the wicket. It was suggested that they should consult him.

Notification was received that the annual conference of Domain Board chairmen and park superintendents would be held at Auckland on March 3, 1936. The chairman expressed the opinion that in view of the fact that Pukekura Park was one of the biggest and best-known in New Zealand they should be represented at the conference. Members expressed agreement, and on the motion of Mr. Varnham it was decided to attend the conference. It was decided also to extend

an invitation for either the next conference or an early one be held at New Plymouth.

THE GABLES.

The Borough Council forwarded a request from the library and museum committee that The Gables at Brooklands should be retained in its present form as a period house. The council would like to see this suggestion given effect to, it was stated. It was decided to reply that the board had no intention of in any way altering the appearance of the building.

The Taranaki A. and P. Association were granted the use of Pukekura park on Thursday, March 5, for a gala night as part of its jubilee celebrations.

Formal application was received from the New Plymouth Athletic Club for the use of the sportsground three nights a week and Sunday morning. Permission was granted for the three week nights.

There was little to report for the month, stated the curator, Mr. T. Horton, the principal work done being that of general maintenance. At this season of the year the grass areas had to be

moved and cultivated and portions had to be hoed and kept free of weeds. The flower beds were planted and kept in order, rubbish gathered up and burned, terraces trimmed, cricket pitches prepared and the usual attention given the fernery. The staff had kept fully occupied with these duties.

As it was the last meeting of the year, said the chairman, he wished to thank members and the staff in the way they had co-operated in the interests of the park.

TH, DECEMBER 16, 1935
ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME
CROWD OF 6000 GATHER
VICE-REGAL PARTY'S OFFICIAL
VISIT

The tour of Taranaki by the Dominion's new Governor-General, his Excellency Lord Galway, and Lady Galway was triumphantly continued yesterday, when, despite the fact that business was carried on as usual in New Plymouth, the shops not closing, an assembly of over 6000 gave the vice-Regal party a tumultuous and full-throated welcome at a civic reception at Pukekura Park. The applause made the gathering one of the most enthusiastic demonstrations ever given by a New Plymouth crowd.

The weather during the afternoon was dull, but warm, while with spring growth still going on Pukekura Park was looking at its best. Their Excellencies were welcomed by the Mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, who read a personal welcome and presented a formal address, by the member for the district, Mr. S. G. Smith, and by Mr. S. Vickers, chairman of the Taranaki County Council. The official speeches, including the reply by his Excellency, occupied only 25 minutes.

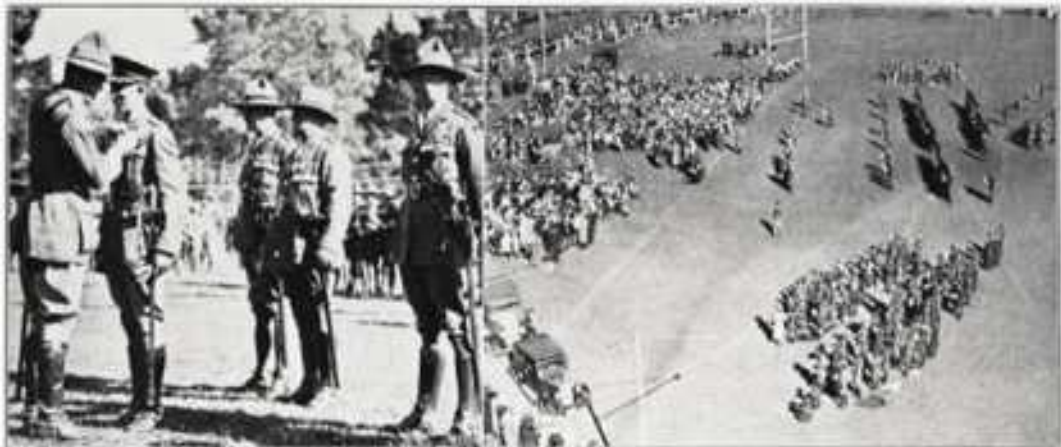
Their Excellencies then had presented to them a number of prominent residents of the town and district. They afterwards carried out an inspection of the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides, the South African Veterans and Returned Soldiers, in that order.

The whole of the proceedings occupied a little over an hour, after which their Excellencies were escorted to the tea kiosk at Pukekura Park and entertained at afternoon tea.

Lord and Lady Galway made an excellent impression on the crowd, and were greeted with sustained applause and cheering both on their arrival and departure. Lord Galway spoke from a dais on the sportsground to the crowd massed on the southern and eastern terraces.



From Left to Right: Mr. P. E. Stainton, Mr. S. G. Smith, MP., Lord Galway, Lady Galway, Mrs. S. G. Smith, Mrs. P. E. Stainton, Mr. T. Horton (park superintendent) and Mr. E. Jackson. (private collection, Warwick Horton)



THE KING'S JUBILEE OBSERVANCE AT NEW PLYMOUTH, Taranaki PROVINCE, UNDER SUPERVISION OF HONOURABLE MEMBER
 A number of our own members were seen and photographed at various points along the route. The King's Jubilee Observance at New Plymouth, N.Z., on the 24th of May, 1935.
 An account of the Jubilee Observance at New Plymouth, N.Z., on the 24th of May, 1935. The King's Jubilee Observance at New Plymouth, N.Z., on the 24th of May, 1935.

The King's Jubilee. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections AWNS-19350515-40-1



Pukekura Park Fernery. Taranaki Herald Christmas Special 1935

1936

The year had an inauspicious start with the death of King George V. There was a large memorial service held in the sportsground. A few weeks later the sportsground hosted a more celebratory occasion when the Taranaki cricket team managed to hang on for an unlikely draw against the M.C.C.

Another significant ceremonial occasion at the sportsground was the 1st Battalion, the Taranaki Regiment, receiving new regimental colours from the Governor-General, Viscount Galway with much pomp and ceremony. The traditional trooping of the Colours was performed in the presence of about 10,000 people in Pukekura Park and provided a memorable scene under a blazing sun.

Thomas Horton raised the issue of the safety of The Poet's Bridge and on inspection by the Borough Engineer (Mr. Clarke) it was deemed unsafe and closed to the public. The cost of repair and the cost of replacement were considered, and replacement was chosen as the way forward. Mr. Clarke's first design was a cheap metal bridge which the park committee were not enamoured with. The bridge originally built in 1884, designed by Henry Vere Barclay was as an iconic part of the park and the view from the Tea House was used in all the promotional advertising and the park committee wanted to maintain that. Bearing that in mind Clarke offered to come up with a design which resembled the original, which he did at the beginning of 1937. When the issue of replacing the bridge came to the public's attention, Richard Cock shared an interesting story about the funding of the original bridge by J. T. Davis. It is widely known that Davis won the money on a horse named "The Poet", but what was not known was that Davis entered several sweepstakes some in partnership with Cock with the intention of paying for the bridge if a sizeable sum was won. His winnings from the sweepstake were £500 and he donated approximately £155 for the construction of the bridge.

The terraces in the sportsground had an upgrade increasing the spectator capacity significantly and at the same time increasing the playing area by about 500 square feet. The terraces were a work in progress starting in the early 1890s. The southern stand was the first to be developed followed by the eastern stand and it was not until a major development in 1907 that the western terraces came about. Another development in the early 1920s made some improvements and the changes in 1936 developed the terraces into basically what can be seen today.

The planting of kauri Grove which Horton had initiated the previous year started in 1936. The council granted the committee £500 over a four-year period, and the committee also received a grant from the Bruce Trust, of Hunterville for £250 again to be paid over a four-year period. Stage one, started in August 1936 when a total of 2245 trees were planted, comprising: 350 Kauri; 50 Titoki; 50 Taraire; 100 Rimu; 25 Hinau; 25 Porokaiwhiri; 25 Rewarewa; 25 Pukatea; 50 Mangaeho; 200 Pohutukawa; 200 Ngaio; 100 Red Beech; 50 Silver Beech; 25 Maire; 10 Toru; 50 Tanekaha; 200 White Pine; 100 Matai; 150 totara; 50 Tawapou; 200 Kowhai; 10 Puriri; 25 Towai; 100 Lawsoniana; 75 Thuja plicata". The trees planted were valued at £106 15s, of which £43 5s worth came from the park's nursery.

The new Sanders rhododendron dell was planted at the beginning of June. The site selected was the site of the old maze at the southern boundary of Pukekura park. Because the Sanders bequest stated that the plants were to be planted in Pukekura park a decision was made not to encroach into Brooklands.



From Left: T. Horton, G. S. Nicoll, J. C. McDowall, G. J. Mackenzie, and F. S. Pope. Nicoll, Mackenzie, and Pope were executive members of the NZ Institute of Horticulture, in New Plymouth to discuss setting up a Taranaki branch of the organisation. McDowell was a local who owned Oranoa gardens. May 21, 1936 (private collection. Warwick Horton)

TH, JANUARY 27, 1936

IMPRESSIVE SCENE

**SERVICE AT PUKEKURA PARK
NEARLY 4000 FOREGATHER.**

At Pukekura Park, where a public memorial service was held, the scene yesterday afternoon was a most impressive one, as nearly 4000 people gathered on the terraces and recreation ground to pay tribute to the greatness of their late Sovereign and to show their deep sorrow in his passing. In the beautiful setting of the green terraces and trees was struck a note of pure reverence and sincerity as the assembly stood silent with bowed heads during the prayers and the playing of laments or swelled the air in unison with the singing of hymns.

The service was organised by the Borough Council and conducted by the members of the New Plymouth Ministers' Association, representing the combined churches of the town. The presiding minister was the Rev. J. D. M'L. Wilson and the memorial address was given by the Ven. Archdeacon F. G. Evans.

At 2.50 p.m. 90 ex-servicemen under the leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Bertrand, president of the Returned Soldiers' Association, paraded at the park gates and marched to the eastern terrace, where a row of seats had been reserved for them. The Taranaki Regimental-Municipal Band assembled at the corner of Devon and Liardet streets at 2.30 p.m. and marched to the park and on to the sportsground. The New Plymouth Caledonian Society's Pipe Band and the Salvation Army Band also marched to the ground from their respective headquarters. On a dais erected in the south-eastern corner of the ground were representatives of public bodies and other organisations, while nearby were assembled Girl Guides and representatives of the Maori race. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides assisted with the distribution of the programmes of the service.

TH, FEBRUARY 5, 1936

**TARANAKI v M.C.C
UNUSUAL ENDING
CALLING OF TIME**

Many persons were a little fogged at the unusual ending of the cricket match between the M.C.C. team and Taranaki at Pukekura Park, but the rules leave no room for doubt on the matter, and the umpires (Messrs. J. M. Thomson and A. Ramshaw) acted in accordance with the laws of the game, says a Taranaki writer. The position was that the time for drawing stumps was six o'clock. Langridge (Sussex) commenced to bowl the last over of the day before the time for drawing had been reached and the clock struck six as he sent down his first ball. The second ball clean bowled Pritchard, and there seemed to be a little hesitation. In the meantime, Groombridge, the last man on the Taranaki side, had come out to play and had reached the wicket before the umpires called time, or at least before it was realised that they had done so, and

the match was concluded, Taranaki gaining the benefit of a draw.

The point that seemed to be in issue was whether or not the visiting team should have been allowed to complete the over that had been commenced and probably win the match. There was nothing arbitrary in what the umpires did, as the rule distinctly says, under "Notice to Umpires" in the M.C.C. Book of Laws: "If a wicket falls after 'time' has been reached the umpires should call 'time!' In Wisden's Almanac, the matter appears more emphatic, and makes it mandatory upon umpires; in such circumstances, to call "time." Had no wicket fallen the over would have been Completed, but in such circumstances there could have been no difference in the conclusion of the match.

Members of the visiting team from England agreed afterwards that the umpires' decision was the correct one.

TH, FEBRUARY 12, 1936

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The advanced state of deterioration of the Poet's Bridge in Pukekura Park was mentioned by the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night. Mr. Horton said that the bridge was in urgent need of inspection by a competent man. During the recent gale he had been standing on the bridge and he thought it would break under the strain, said Mr. Horton. While he was there two heavy stays dropped into the water. Repairs were also needed to the road at Brooklands and various buildings in the park required painting. A sub-committee of the chairman, the secretary and Mr. F. Amooore was appointed to report on the matters mentioned.

Those present were the Hon. J. McLeod (chairman), Messrs. E. R. C. Gilmour, H. Dempsey, F. Amooore, E. King, E. Jackson, W. F. Short, F. S. Varnham, F. Parker and E. J. Carr.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, reported that the main work done during the past month had been that of general maintenance. The fences, gates and bridges had been repaired where most necessary.

A great deal of extra work had been done to the sportsground area for the functions held there. The ground was being prepared for the band contest.

Cricket pitches had been regularly prepared. Very special attention had been given the main wicket for the M.C.C. match and this proved quite successful. At the end of the game the wicket appeared good for another two days' play. The English captain, Mr. E. R. T. Holmes, had personally expressed his appreciation of the wicket, the outfield and the grounds generally to Mr. Horton.

One of the large mowing machines had twice been damaged through striking some hard substance on the ground in spite of the care and watchfulness of the groundsman. Repairs had been effected and all the machines were now in good order.

The paddocks at Brooklands looked very untidy because of a good deal of noxious growth, but the staff were too busy on more important work to clean them up at present.

The drive from Brooklands Road to "The Gables" was in a deplorable condition and required urgent attention.

The superintendent's house, "The Gables," and the house occupied by Mr. Cleaver all required painting to preserve them from deterioration. The Poet's Bridge, band rotunda and tea house also needed painting.

Mr. Horton thought it was absolutely imperative that the committee obtain a report from a competent man on the condition of the Poet's Bridge, which showed many evidences that urgent attention was necessary.

GALE DAMAGE.

The recent gale had done a good deal of damage both in Pukekura Park and Brooklands, but not nearly as much as might have been expected. No large trees came down, but a number of good-sized branches were broken off and in some cases the tops were snapped. The whole place was strewn with branches, ponga fronds, and rubbish, necessitating the use of a lorry for three days removing the debris. All the main paths and walks had been cleaned.

During the holiday season there had been many more visitors than in previous years.

The Fernery was in splendid condition and looked better than it ever had in his opinion.

Receipts for the period December 1 to February 9 for Fernery, boats, donations, etc., was £176 12s 3d, being an increase of £14 4s 6d over the same period last year. These receipts showed that 569 more people paid to go into the Fernery or used the boats.

Mr. Jackson congratulated Mr. Horton on the state of the wicket for the M.C.C. match.

It was decided that the borough engineer be asked to inspect the Poet's Bridge and report on its condition to the committee at the next meeting.

It was decided that the committee visit Mr. Parker's gardens at 7 O'clock next Wednesday evening. Members spoke highly of the gardens and Mr. Gilmour stated that he had taken a number of visitors from all over the world to inspect the gardens and all had spoken most highly of the beauty of the plants.

Mr. Parker stated that he had been greatly impressed by the growth of the kauris on the walk through the park up to the racecourse. It was remarkable the way the kauris had withstood the gale, he said.

It was resolved to draw the attention of the Borough Council to the condition of Upper Brooklands Road with a recommendation that it be permanently repaired.

The question of accepting the Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club's offer to hand over the lighting equipment on the Sportsground to the committee was discussed. Members thought the offer was worthy of consideration and it was

decided to bring the matter before the Borough Council for favourable consideration.

An application from the Woolston Brass Band for permission to hold a concert in Pukekura Park on March 1 was referred to the band Contest Committee.

The granting of £500 in four years by the Borough Council for tree planting at Brooklands was appreciated.

TH, FEBRUARY 19, 1936

STORY OF SWEEPSTAKES

**MR. R. COCK'S RECOLLECTIONS
BUILDING OF THE POET'S BRIDGE.**

The story leading up to Mr. J. T. Davis winning of a prize in a sweepstake and his subsequent donation of "The Poet's" Bridge, as told to Taranaki Herald reporter by Mr. R. Cock, is full of interest. Mr. Cock was a great friend of Mr. Davis, and together they were members of the original Park Board, then known as the Recreation Grounds Committee. Mr. Cock is the only surviving member of the original committee.

The sweepstake in which Mr. Davis was so successful was held in Auckland and was one of the many conducted by Mr. Adams. The sweepstake was named Tattersalls. When objection was taken to the running of sweepstakes in New Zealand Mr. Adams moved to Sydney and from there to Hobart, Tasmania, where the sweeps are still being conducted.

At the time of which Mr. Cock was speaking there was an agency for the sweepstake in New Plymouth. Mr. Davis and Mr. Cock endeavoured to persuade the others on the board to take a ticket, but they would not be persuaded. In view of this the two put £5 each in the Post Office Savings Bank, then called "Von Rotter's Bank," and periodically sent for a ticket in Adams' sweep. It had been agreed that if either of them won a prize they were to have a bridge built across the main lake at the park to save the long walk round.

They won a £5 and a £20 prize, and put this money back in the bank for the purchase of further tickets. At last the money was exhausted, and Mr. Cock declared that he was going to have a rest from the sweeps for a while. Mr. Davis however, purchased two more tickets, and in one of these sweepstakes drew a horse called "The Poet." The Poet won, and Mr. Davis collected the £500 prize. He remembered the agreement regarding the bridge, which cost in the vicinity of £300, and had it built.

Mr. Cock stated that many tickets used to be bought in the sweep and they cost £1 each.

TH, FEBRUARY 26, 1936

"SAVE OUR HERITAGE"

PINES IN PUKEKURA PARK

The melo-dramatic sub-headings and opening paragraph of the article in the *Daily News* under the heading of "Save Our Heritage" and the authorship of "A.B." has probably had some effect in focussing public attention on matters affecting the general policy of the

Pukekura Park Committee in regard to tree planting, writes Mr. James McLeod, chairman of the park committee. That being so, and because some of the leading allegations contained in the article are quite contrary to fact in so far as the committee's policy and actual operations are concerned, I consider it timely that an official reply should be made, and I am sorry that, owing to my absence from New Plymouth last week an earlier opportunity has not been available.

At the outset let me say that it has not been, and is not, as alleged, "the committee's policy to steadily remove the pine trees that give this wonderful park half its character." The committee has a complete record of every tree that has been removed during the past ten years, approximately the period of the present superintendent's term of office. Prior to his appointment, the back row of pines on the John Street Walk, south of the sportsground, had been authorised for removal, entirely with a view to providing the necessary background and skyline of the future when the front rows of pines have lived their lives.

VIGOROUS GROWTH.

An inspection of that portion of the park to-day with its surprisingly vigorous growth of kauri, rimu, totara, pohutukawas, rewarewa, Norfolk pine, Wellingtonia, Libocedrus, etc., with the dense new undergrowth is the subject of most favourable comment by competent authorities. If one is to judge "A.B.'s" knowledge of the trees in the park by his and others' extravagant statements it may occasion the general public some surprise and interest them to know that apart from John Street, the only pines removed during the past 10 years have been one on the sportsground, six near the superintendent's house, four near the racecourse entrance corner and two on the hill to the south, a total of 13 trees. Of these five were dead or dying, and the others were either dangerous or for some very good reason, after many inspections and much thoughtful consideration by the committee, considered unwise to leave standing.

As there are many hundreds of pines in the park, surely it savours of hysteria to endeavour to mislead the public to the belief that the committee is ruthlessly destroying the "pine feature" of the area. Further, all the protests and petitions in the world will not prolong the natural life of the pines, and assuredly the time is approaching when from none other than natural causes this particular feature will be no more, unless steps are taken by this generation to anticipate that eventuality and provide against it.

Having that in mind the committee long ago decided to prepare for that time by extensive planting of a very wide range of exotic as well as native trees, not for "botanical" purposes as inferred by "A.B.," but for forest re-generation amongst old trees and bush, with the idea of fortifying these areas and at all times with view of ultimately sky-line density and effect. Just under 2000 more or less major trees have been planted under this policy during the past 10 years, and with

very few exceptions are growing remarkably well.

DETAILS OF PLANTING.

To particularise, 220 trees have been planted south and west of the pines on the hill-top west of the Fillis Street gully, comprising 24 karaka, 86 pohutukawas, 25 kowhai, 5 Norfolk pine, 5 libocedrus (cedar) 3 kauri, 2 thuja gigantea and 70 other native and skyline trees. These are now from 3 to 12 feet in height, and less than half a dozen are not robust.

In the Fillis Street Botanic Reserve 96 trees, mostly rare varieties of natives, and forming the nucleus of a botanic collection, have already been planted. These trees have mainly been donated to the committee exclusively for this purpose. The plan calls for the planting of a further 850 native trees in this section, but it is not advisable to plant there so long as the pines now under consideration are existent.

Might I just add that this gully, which has always been an uncultivated waste of bracken and rubbish and which is more or less isolated from the park proper as known by the public, was not originally part of the reserve at all, but was purchased by the committee and specifically set aside some years ago as the exclusive botanical section of the park for native tree specimens, as was the fernery for New Zealand ferns. It would be suicidal to proceed further with the work in the meantime, for the two-fold reason that the specimen trees will not flourish within the influence of the falling pine needles and the impoverished soil, and even if they did make some growth run the risk of their being ruined when the pines, if not now, are ultimately felled, having reached, their life's limit.

To continue with the planting. In order to fortify the hill behind the southern terraces of the sportsground, and behind the front line of pines, there have been planted 75 pohutukawas, 18 kauri, 20 rimu, 22 totara, 6 hoheria, 6 rewarewa, 8 libocedrus, 4 lawsonia, 3 Norfolk pine, 1 Wellingtonia and 70 natives assorted for dense sky-line, a total of 233 major and dense foliage trees.

ON FLAGPOLE HILL.

On the flagpole hill, behind the outside stand on the racecourse, there have been planted 38 trees, comprising 3 sequoia, 3 thuja gigantea, 2 kauri and 30 pohutukawas, already 6 to 10 feet high and growing well. Trees planted on the hill between the pines and the racecourse on the south side of what is known as the racecourse walk total 115 and comprise 10 kauri, 6 libocedrus (cedar), 6 thuja gigantea, 3 Norfolk pine, 2 sequoia and 88 assorted natives.

On the west side of the sportsground behind the terraces have been planted 3 Wellingtonia gigantea and 20 assorted natives, while on the east side between the terraces and the hedge 70 pohutukawas and flowering gums are making substantial growth and will soon be a distinctive feature of this hillside.

On Victoria Road hill, from Carrington Road entrance to the superintendent's residence, there have been planted

on the sky-line 3 kauri, 7 Norfolk pine, 2 puriri, 5 libocedrus and 7 sequoia, and inside these 37 pongas, 15 kowhai, 110 pohutukawas and 50 assorted natives.

Many of these trees are already 16 feet in height and growing vigorously.

On the hillside east of the superintendent's residence, where originally 6 pinus insignis trees were removed, some of them dying and dangerous, 80 assorted trees now from 3 to 15 feet in height are making excellent and dense growth.

On Victoria Road at the exposed south-west corner near the croquet courts 60 pohutukawas and 10 natives assorted have been planted. On the west side of the main lake and up to the tennis and croquet courts 60 evergreen oaks, 30 karo and 40 assorted natives are making good growth, while on Totora Hill, where none previously grew, 7 sky-line trees are doing well.

In addition to the trees planted on the Victoria Road frontage and already detailed, hedges of totara and pohutukawa have been established, and together with the trees in the superintendent's garden provide a new and splendid breakwind from westerly, mountain and breakwater winds.

Also from the Vogelton entrance right to Brooklands shelter and native trees have been planted which give efficient shelter from the mountain and southerly blows.

Approximately a further 600 trees, mostly native, have been planted throughout the park area, mainly to fortify weaker parts.

Of the trees that have been planted on the highest points for sky-line purposes the casual observer can gain no knowledge if his inspection is confined to the main paths, and it is essential to get on to the hilltops behind the groups of pines, and to the outer-skirts of the grounds, to appreciate the planting that had been done, and to get a realisation of the provision the committee has been making during the past few years to maintain and wherever possible ultimately improve the magnificence of the sky-line.

The foregoing takes no account at all of the vast amount of planting that has been done in Brooklands since the committee assumed control of that area just two years ago. In the interim the southern and western frontages of the native bush have been completely protected by shelter belts of lawsonia and suitable natives, while large numbers of kowhai, rewarewa and numerous other native bird-food trees have been established, to say nothing of the planting that has been done in the bush itself to strengthen the weaker positions.

To summarise it has not been, and is not, the policy of the committee or the opinion of the superintendent that a single tree should be removed unless it is dying, dangerous or standing in the way of a permanent or featural improvement. The committee realises it has a duty to succeeding generations as well as the present one, and is using its best and considered judgment in providing that so far as possible there shall be no long transitional period following the decease

of the present pines and before new growth had replaced them.

INDIVIDUALITY OF PUKEKURA.

The committee is fully alive to the peculiar and characteristic individuality of Pukekura amongst parks, and is particularly careful to ensure the maintenance of its natural charm for the average citizen, and not allow it to develop into a botanical showground. The committee, however, is equally appreciative of the value of botanical features, and realises there can be added to New Plymouth's many attractions a unique botanical collection of New Zealand's unequalled wide range of forest trees, for the benefit of our own people, of visitors and of students, botanists and foresters. To provide this feature the ferneries have already been established. Under way is the Fillis Street gully botanical reserve of specimen native trees previously detailed. Further, within the past few months the committee decided on the establishment on waste Brooklands land of a forest of some acres in extent, of all major New Zealand timber trees.

The sum of £500 spread over four years has already been allotted for this new development, and work will start this autumn. Enthusiasts and experts in various parts of the Dominion have already expressed their pleasure with the committee's decision in this connection. To plant the whole area that the committee has available for this purpose will probably cost a further £100 to £1250, and the committee is hopeful from encouragement already evidenced by influential lovers of New Zealand flora, that the additional finance may be made available.

The \$500 scheme about to be commenced will provide for the planting of 600 kauri and 150 each matai, puriri, rimu, kohekohe, birch, miro, kahikatea and many others of our usual timber trees. Should, as we hope, the ultimate scheme develop, an additional 5000 of these trees will be planted in the area, each variety in its own block. It requires little imagination to visualize such a forest 50 years hence; and nowhere in New Zealand is it possible to do so.

TH, MARCH 2, 1936 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

TREES MUST GO

PINES ON EASTERN TERRACE

Pukekura Park Skyline

DEPUTATION UNSUCCESSFUL

COMMITTEE REAFFIRMS DECISION.

The Pukekura Park Committee last night heard the views of a deputation opposed to the felling of the pine trees on the eastern terrace of the sports ground and afterwards discussed again at length the whole question, finally affirming its decision that the trees must go as required in connection with the planting of a botanic forest reserve in the Fillis Street gully.

Suggestions were made by the deputation that there was an uneasy feeling among townspeople that the policy of the committee was eventually to cut out all the pinus insignis trees in the park, but this was warmly rejected by

the committee, it being stated that no tree could be removed without a special resolution of the committee.

The petition presented by the deputation stated: —

"We, the undersigned burgesses of the borough of New Plymouth, respectfully request the rejection of the proposal (or recommendation) to fell the group of pine trees situated on the summit of the rise immediately behind the eastern terraces of the sportsground.

"As one of the outstanding features of this portion of the park from landscape attractiveness we deplore the suggestion of their removal and humbly submit that their destruction would seriously detract from the appearance of the eastern slope."

The petition contained some 240 signatures, and the deputation consisted of Messrs. W. H. Skinner, H. M. Bacon, W. H. Woodward, G. Fraser and R. W. D

Robertson.

NOT THERE TO CRITICISE

Mr. Skinner said the deputation was not there to criticise the committee. It recognised the difficulties they had to deal with and he commended the chairman for having published recently a full account of the committee's policy. This had disarmed a good deal of criticism on the part of some people, and while, as he had said, the deputation was not there to criticise, they did earnestly ask the committee to very carefully reconsider the whole question and to spare these trees. Mr. Skinner intimated that the deputation did not propose to offer any suggestions.

Mr. Bacon emphasised that the petition had been signed quite voluntarily. There had been no canvass at all.

Continuing, Mr. Bacon said it was largely to the grandeur and majesty of the pines that Pukekura Park owed its world-wide reputation as a beauty spot.

It was the majestic upward sweep or the noble trees surrounding it that gave that tranquility and dignity which placed it in higher category than the mere botanical gardens of other towns. He thought it would be a thousand pities if this unique feature were removed.

If this particular group of trees were decaying as some said, why not plant other trees now to take their place. It has been suggested that a line of trees planted on the other side of the hedge would eventually make the same feature or skyline and not interfere with the planting of the gully, but personally he did not think that any other tree than the pinus insignis could give the great artistic background to the native trees, shrubs and ferns that their sombre colour afforded. Therefore he ventured to say "do not condemn the pines, or you will rob your park of its majesty, which is its chief charm and scenic distinction."

In conclusion he said it was then hoped that the presenting of the petition bearing the names of so many responsible and intelligent men and women would bring home the fact that there existed a very large body of public opinion against the removal of the trees.

GRANDEUR EMPHASISED.

Mr. Woodward, speaking in support of the petition, said that if one stood in the middle of the sports ground and looked towards the west one got the appearance of a neat suburban garden, while looking to the east the eye was lifted far above the skyline and one got the appearance of something like grandeur. They could get the neat suburban garden appearance in a very little while, but it took many years to get a framework of the grandeur these pine trees gave to the eastern terrace.

Mr. Fraser said there was a very uneasy feeling among the rank and file in the town regarding not only these trees but pine trees generally in the park. There was a rumour in circulation for instance, that pine trees along the entrance from Victoria Road were to go.

MEMBERS: NONSENSE!

Mr. Fraser: I am very glad to hear that. The committee, in face of that rumour should clearly define its attitude.

He expressed the hope that the committee would seriously consider the petition and stressed the point that there was very little, if any, active support of the policy in having the trees removed.

Mr. Fraser also referred to the removal some years ago of pine trees from the John Street frontage of the park and said the scar was still there.

Mr. Robertson said there was undoubtedly a great amount of public unrest that the policy of the committee was to do away with all the pines.

Mr. Amoore: That is not so.

Mr. Robertson: Then the committee should make it clear that it is not its policy.

Continuing, he said there was a body of public opinion definitely opposed to the removal of these trees, and he ventured to assert that the committee should consider public opinion. The main issue to-day was not perhaps so much the removal of these particular trees but the fear that the committee's intention was the ultimate removal of all the pine trees in the park.

The chairman: There is no justification for saying that. There can, only be a small section of people who would think that surely.

Mr. Amoore: There is no justification for it at all.

Mr. Robertson: Trees have been removed from other parts of the park for the putting up of houses and these things have led to this fear. To take these trees down now would leave a very naked appearance and he suggested they might at least be left until trees already planted grew a little higher.

ALIVE TO RESPONSIBILITIES.

The chairman said the committee was very pleased to have this talk with the deputation. He would say at the outset that the committee was fully alive to its responsibilities. Not one member of the committee was keen to cut out a single tree at the park, and as a proof of that only 13 trees had been removed in 10 years. Surely that was sufficient answer to any suggestion that there was spoliation going on. The few trees that

had cut down were either dying or menace to better and more beautiful trees.

"You gentlemen agree with the policy of the committee in setting aside a botanical forest reserve," continued the chairman. "It is a policy the committee has had in view for some time, but we are assured it cannot go on while these trees remain. Have you thought of this? Are the public 20 years hence not entitled to have a skyline. These trees will not be there in 10 years. They are dying, and if not removed by the committee will have to come down of their own accord. So we propose cutting them down now with a view to the future—not for fun. I can assure you.

"The committee is anxious to provide that skyline we have heard so much about, but it cannot be done so long as these pines remain. Nothing would grow underneath them, for instance, and in the second place anything planted would be spoiled or ruined when the trees came down unless scaffolding was erected and they were brought down little at a time, which would be a very expensive method.

NOT CUTTING FOR FUN.

"These are the difficulties the committee is faced with," said the chairman. "I repeat that we are not cutting down these trees for fun, or because anyone says they are ugly. We are cutting them down for the future and because we are advised that a botanical forest reserve cannot be built up while these trees are there.

"The trees it was proposed to plant are very high-growing trees, and will thus eventually provide a permanent skyline, rather than one limited to the life of pinus insignis, which is 60 to 80 years. If the deputation can suggest a way of getting over the difficulties I have enumerated the committee will give it serious consideration.

"Five years ago this matter was discussed and it was decided to take the trees out, but because of agitation the work had not been proceeded with. In December last year the decision was reaffirmed."

Continuing, Mr. M'Leod said that only that night the committee had been advised that the Bruce Trust had agreed to make a grant of £250, spread over four years, to assist the planting scheme. This was in addition to the £500 granted by the Borough Council. The idea was to plant real forest trees in a new area at Brooklands which was at present in bracken, and in the Fillis Street gully.

Part of the Fillis Street gully had already been planted and the idea of removing the pine trees was to enable the planting on the western side to proceed.

AMPLE ROOM.

Mr. Skinner expressed the opinion that there was ample room to develop the planting without removing the pines in the meantime.

Mr. Amoore said he wished to emphasise the fact that the committee had no intention of felling all the pine trees in the park. The committee was not composed of destructive vandals.

Mr. Stainton: It was a ridiculous suggestion. No trees can be cut down

without a special resolution of the committee.

Mr. Fraser: That was not, the case five years ago, when the trees at John Street were cut out.

Mr. Amoore: They were taken out by resolution of the committee.

Mr. Fraser: Members of the committee have told me that they had no idea so many trees were to come down or that there would be such devastation.

Mr. Stainton: None can be cut down except, by special resolution. Surely that should allay any feeling with the deputation or the public generally.

The chairman mentioned that the committee had not decided to take its present course entirely without outside approval. Members had invited the whole of the Borough Council to inspect the park and approval had been given of its plans for the future. "We are now scarring the skyline," he admitted, "but the plain fact is that it must scarred sometime. We are providing for the future of the park."

Mr. Skinner suggested that in any planting scheme at Fillis Street consideration should be given to tawa, titoki, rewarewa and kohekohe. It was a dry slope and these trees would do well there.

The deputation then withdrew.

LOOKING TO FUTURE.

The Mayor said he had listened attentively to the deputation and appreciated its sincerity, but looking to the future he was still firmly of the opinion that the trees must go if the committee was to carry out its scheme. Mr. Bennett and Mr. Just, two of the leading horticulturalists in New Zealand, had both expressed the opinion after visiting the park that the scheme could not be carried out if the trees remained there. He moved that the committee give effect to its previous decision that the be removed as and when required.

The chairman seconded the motion. He said they had been referred to as noble trees, but personally he did not agree with this. Some of them should have been removed years ago.

Mr. Short said he was very much against the trees being removed at this juncture. The statement that only 13 trees had been cut down in 10 years was absolutely wrong. He felt that trees could be planted there to give a sky line before the pine trees were removed. There was no need for all this hurry, and there was a large body of public opinion opposed to the committee on this question.

A member: There are only 239 names on the out of 5000 or 6000 people.

Mr. Short: But that does not signify anything. He knew, he said, that people had volunteered to take petitions round to get them signed.

The chairman: We have been asked to allow men to take round counter petitions.

"A BETTER PLAN."

Mr. Short, continuing, said the better plan would be to plant quick-growing trees which would provide a sky line and then the pines could be cut down.

The chairman: But trees will not grow close to the pines.

Mr. Short: The park belongs to the people and not to the committee. Why brush aside public opinion?

Mr. Dempsey favoured the removal of the trees.

Mr. Bellringer said he could not see any reason for postponing action if they intended to carry on with the forest reserve scheme. He respected the views of the deputation, but pointed out that not once in all the time the Park Committee had existed had there been a definite improvement that had escaped criticism at the outset. Yet visitors told him to-day that they had one of the finest parks in world. The policy of the committee must therefore have been effective. It might be the easiest thing to agree to the request of the petitioners, but the committee had a public duty to perform and should do it. It was essential that they continue their forest reserve scheme.

Mr. Jackson congratulated Mr. Short on his fight to retain the pines. His regret was that other trees had not been planted years ago inside the sports ground fence to replace these straggling trees, which he considered must go. He thought, however, that they should immediately plant a row of pinus insignis on the inside of the sportsground fence. They would grow very rapidly and soon give them another sky line.

Mr. Amoores was opposed to further delaying the question. The pines should come down to make room for better class trees. When the forest reserve was planted it would be something unique in New Zealand.

TREES SHOULD NOT GO.

Mr. Varnham said he was still of the opinion that the trees should not be cut down. Other trees could be planted fairly close, and when they grew up then the pines could be felled along the top of the ridge without doing any damage. He did not agree with the suggestion that the trees were unsightly. On the other hand, he considered they provided a wonderful sky line.

He added that the names of Messrs. Bennett and Just had been mentioned, but he pointed out that they were horticulturists.

Mr. King suggested that the committee might pay the deputation the compliment of inspecting the trees with them and explaining what it was proposed to do to replace them. Why not postpone action and get them to go up with the committee and explain the plan carefully?

Mr. Stainton supported Mr. King's suggestion.

An amendment was proposed that action be further deferred, but this was rejected and the original motion that the trees be removed was adopted. Those in favour of the motion were the chairman and Messrs. Amoores, Dempsey, Gilmour, Bellringer and Stainton, and those against were Messrs. Short, King, and Varnham.

Mr. Jackson gave notice of motion to move that the committee consider the

question of planting pine trees along the eastern boundary of the sports ground.

TH, MARCH 2, 1936 BAND CONTEST CONCLUDES QUICKSTEP COMPETITION

Wonderful Picture at Park

It is many years since there has been in New Plymouth such a picturesque scene as that of Saturday afternoon at Pukekura Park, when the Dominion band contest concluded with the spectacular quickstep competition. Big crowds there may have been in the sportsground on other occasions, but it only rarely that such a gathering takes place in summer-time when the colours of dresses are added to the natural beauties of the setting in which the display took place. The quickstep competition in a band contest is always the "show day" of the event, and it makes a very strong and a very wide appeal as an attractive, spectacular entertainment.

From an early hour in the morning people began to make their way to the park, prepared, for the sake of securing a good position, to make a picnic of the day. By mid-day the terraces were filling rapidly and when the bands began to arrive on the ground from the street marching competition it looked as though the terraces round the ground would hold no more people, but there were still thousands flocking in at the main and other entrances until, with double rows on all the terraces, there could be seen little or nothing of the hillsides on which the people were seated and the whole place was transformed into a colourful picture with beautiful setting made by nature. Movement added to the brilliance of the spectacle. Special trains brought visitors from as far away as Wellington and Auckland, and all intermediate centres, and it estimated that attendance at the park could not have been less than from 14,000 to 15,000.

The scene on the playing area of the ground had its colourful attractions as well as those of the marching and playing of the competing bands. Uniforms looked their best, and the shining buttons and the gold and silver facings on some of the uniforms sparkled as the sunlight caught them at one point or another, while the gleam of the highly-polished instruments had a dazzling effect at some points.

The bands were marshalled under the southern terrace, and the whole arrangements were splendidly designed and admirably carried out, and the committee may well feel proud of the achievement, as far as the organisation of that part of the contest was concerned.

The contest was in two sections, for A grade and B grade bands, and promptly on time the first of the B grade bands came into line at the appointed place for inspection. As a fact a number of bandsmen and others who have had much experience in the management of quickstep competitions, said it was a rare thing for the event to get such a prompt start.

TH, MARCH 12, 1936 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING TREE PLANTING BROOKLANDS AND PUKEKURA PARK GRANT FROM BRUCE TRUST.

The Pukekura Park Committee recently made an application to the trustees of the R. C. Bruce estate (Hunterville) asking for assistance towards its scheme for the planting of certain areas of Brooklands, and also a botanic forest reserve at the Fillis Street gully, and at last night's meeting of the committee it was reported that a grant of £250 spread over four years had been approved. There were present at the meeting the Hon. J. McLeod (chairman), the Mayor (Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour), Messrs. F. Amoores, H. Dempsey, E. Jackson, E. King, W. F. Short, C. E. Bellringer, F. S. Varnham, and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

In acknowledging the committee's original application, the trustees pointed out that they had received quite a number of applications for assistance, and that they already had some commitments. However, it would not be overlooked that New Plymouth citizens had shown a wonderful public spirit in the past. The beautiful reserves were a positive delight to visitors. They also asked to be supplied with a copy of the superintendent's report. In a subsequent letter the trustees expressed their approval of the proposals, and intimated that they were prepared to subsidise the work outlined to the extent of £250 spread over four years. The hope was expressed that one of the trustees would be able to visit New Plymouth at an Early date.

The Borough Council has agreed to provide £500 spread over a period of four years, and the chairman said that the grant from the Bruce trustees would enable the committee to carry out its complete scheme, the planting of Brooklands and the botanic reserve at the Fillis Street gully.

Members of the committee expressed their keen appreciation of the generous response of the trustees, and the secretary was instructed to write them accordingly.

NZ HERALD, MARCH 26, 1936 NEW COLOURS PRESENTED CEREMONY AT NEW PLYMOUTH

The 1st Battalion, the Taranaki Regiment, with pomp and ceremony, this afternoon bade farewell to the regiment's old colours and received its new colours from the Governor-General, Viscount Galway. The traditional trooping of the Colour was performed in the presence of about 10,000 people in Pukekura Park and provided a memorable scene under a blazing sun.

The ceremony opened with the arrival of the Nev Plymouth High School cadets, who marched into the park and formed a complete cordon round the circular ground. The 1st Battalion, the Taranaki Regiment, followed, led by its band. On entering the ground the Governor-General, who was accompanied by many officers of the Army and Royal New

Zealand Air Force, was driven between ranks of the Legion of Frontiersmen.

Then began the intricate movements of trooping, performed by the battalion with striking precision. When finally the drums were piled and the new colours draped upon them the regimental chaplain, Archdeacon G. H. Gavin, dedicated the emblems.

The Governor-General performed the ceremony of presentation and Colonel F. S. Varnham replied, accepting the colours and swearing to uphold the traditions they represented. A march-past followed, His Excellency taking the salute.

The old colours were presented to the regiment in 1861 and have proud battle honours emblazoned upon them.

TH, APRIL 22, 1936

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PINES IN THE PARK**

A further step has been taken in respect of the controversy relating to the pine trees in Pukekura Park, and at last night's meeting of the committee a report was received from the superintendent in the form of answers to a questionnaire submitted to him by the chairman of the committee (the Hon. James Mcleod, M.L.C.) in which Mr. Horton expressed in frank, but sincere, terms his opinions relating to the value of the pines and their length of useful life as ornaments in the grounds.

The questions and answers are as follows and they will be considered by the committee at its next meeting. Mr. Horton was asked as to:

(1) The possibility of planting some *pinus insignis* or similar variety near the top of the terraces and on the sportsground side of the hedge where they might not affect the growth of the trees to be planted on the slope of the Fillis Street gully.

Answer: I cannot recommend planting pines or similar large-growing trees on the sportsground side of the hedge, firstly because they would be too near the terraces, and secondly because their shadow would completely cover the terraces or extend to some distance on the playing area during the early part of the day. This would apply more in the winter than in the summer. It is possible, however, to plant a short row of pines over the hedge extending from the end tree of those to be felled in a southerly direction to the brow of the hill, a distance of approximately four chains. While this scheme would be possible I do not recommend it for the reason that large-growing trees of a more permanent nature are already planted and are doing well. The success of these trees would be seriously jeopardised if pines were planted.

(2) The advisability and possibility of fortifying the pines south of the sportsground either for planting amongst the existing pines or behind them and the kauris, etc., on the John Street path.

It is possible to plant a few pines amongst and behind these, but they could not possibly make satisfactory growth; but a position just to the east of

these trees is quite suitable for planting and a group of pines or other trees planted here would fill the gap where the large macrocarpas were blown down. If it is decided to plant this class of tree in this position the few natives already planted would require to be removed.

(3) The possibility of planting a few *pinus insignis* or similar trees to maintain the density and skyline on Cannon Hill.

Yes. There is room on this hill for quite a few trees. Either *lawsoniana* or pines. It would be useless to plant under the pines and to be sure of any success planting would have to be done in the open, grassed area.

(4) The possibility of fortifying similarly in any degree the hillside west of the main lake.

This cannot be done. Any trees planted here would only grow weak, thin and spindly. There is not sufficient room between these trees and the tennis or croquet lawns to plant more trees. Many are already planted among the pines and it is hoped they will ultimately fill the vacancy between the ground level and the lower branches of the pines. Additional planting can only be done by encroaching on the tennis greens.

(5) Similarly the hillside east of the main lake and west of the racecourse.

Yes. There is room here for a few trees which might be planted with a fair prospect of success, not actually amongst the present growing trees, but in gaps and spaces at the immediate rear of them.

"I LOVE AND WORSHIP THEM."

"Having your inquiries," wrote Mr. Horton, "I would like to state that the height and density of pine growth giving Pukekura Park the peculiar character which it has enjoyed for so many years and exists to-day is enjoyed by no one more than myself, and it is with deepest feelings of sorrow that occasionally I have to recommend the removal of a tree. I love and worship them, and it is with feelings of extreme regret that I am compelled to report that in my opinion it will be impossible to maintain them in their present condition for an indefinite period; in fact, most of them are in a state of deterioration now and in less than 20 years not more than a score will be alive and healthy, and probably not so many as that.

"Experience has taught me that decaying and rotten branches such as are to be seen on most of the pines here, if not removed, hasten the deterioration of the tree. Those stately and majestic trees on either side of Carrington Road walk, which were a menace and a grave danger to pedestrians a few years ago, and from which I had all the lower dead and dying branches removed, are the admiration of everybody who sees them. They have considerably improved since they were so treated and will probably live and do well for another 10 years. To extend the life and preserve the other pines in a healthier condition it is essential that dying, dead, and rotten branches should be removed. I strongly suggest that everything possible should be done to maintain the present group of pines in as

healthy a condition as possible for as long as possible.

"I might further add that in my opinion the conifer and other trees planted and growing on all hilltops in the park and behind present groups of pines will ultimately be just as effective as the pines and more majestic, because of their superiority as trees, and they will be of a permanent character.

"Any decision to plant more pines in this park I cannot conscientiously recommend and would look upon such action as retrograde. In this opinion I am supported by all park curators and superintendents of this country."

**TH, MAY 22, 1936
NO PLACE FOR PINES
GRADUAL FELLING
RECOMMENDED**

"Pines have no place in Pukekura Park!" was the pronouncement yesterday of Mr. J. G. McKenzie, director of parks and reserves at Wellington, made with the authority of 30 years' experience of landscape gardening and forestry. Mr. McKenzie stood at the door of the park fernery at New Plymouth yesterday afternoon and gazed with a disapproving eye at the high wall of pines opposite him. "In that block I counted this morning seven or eight trees absolutely dead, with not a green branch," he said.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of the park, who was escorting a party of Wellington horticulturists round the reserve, said: "There has never been any question of those pines coming down. The trees for felling grow on the skyline of the southern terrace."

Mr. McKenzie, however, made it clear that his decision would have been far more sweeping than that of the park committee. "The life of pines is no longer than 40 years," he explained. "You must make up your mind that the trees in the park now, already becoming straggly, will grow more ugly and more ugly every year. Even at present the thick carpet of needles is poisoning the ground.

"No doubt planting pines was a sensible move in the old days when people feared little else might grow. They provide splendid shelter and are invaluable for choking down gorse. But the beauty of Pukekura Park now should depend on pongas and native bush. Remember that New Zealand bush will not grow in all places in the Dominion; at Oamaru and farther south it is not seen."

Eighteen years ago Wellington was up in arms about a suggestion to cut down pines in the botanical gardens, continued Mr. McKenzie. But the proposal was put in effect and people became used to it. There was not a murmur when pine trees in Fitzherbert Terrace were felled recently because they had outlived their usefulness.

"I understand the sentimental regard of New Plymouth townfolk for these old trees," he concluded. "But you can be sure a man like Mr. Horton would not allow any of them to be felled unless it were absolutely necessary. Personally I think every pine in the park should be cut down—not at once or altogether, but

judiciously in ones and twos as they are replaced by other and better species. My ideal would be a park with pongas and native bush predominating over an admixture of the most suitable trees of other countries. There is no objection to a few flowers to give contrasting brightness."

Mr. McKenzie added an appreciation of Brooklands. Such a reserve would send Wellington people into raptures, he said. New Plymouth did not yet realise its value to the full because they were well supplied with open spaces and reserves, but when the town had grown, in 10 or 20 or 50 years' time, Brooklands would be priceless—a gift that could not be measured in money.

TH, JUNE 10, 1936
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
BRIDGE TO STAY
LINK, WITH OLD ASSOCIATIONS.

The disrepair of the Poet's Bridge in Pukekura Park was the subject of further discussion at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night. Present were Messrs. F. Amooore (acting chairman), E. King, E. Jackson, W. F. Short, E. R. C. Gilmour, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent of the park).

At a previous meeting of the Committee, Mr. Horton reported that the bridge was urgently in need of repair. Following this it was decided to request the Borough Council to have the borough engineer inspect the bridge and report to the committee.

Last night a letter was received from the town clerk, Mr. F. T. Bellringer, notifying the committee that the engineer had been instructed to submit reports and estimates of the costs of repairing the bridge and the entrance road into Brooklands as requested.

Mr. Horton stated that he had seen Mr. C. Clarke, the engineer, that afternoon, and although the latter had not yet prepared a full report he had commented upon the state of the bridge and the possible costs of repairs.

Mr. Clarke had said that it would take a man and himself a full day to make a detailed estimate, but from his inspection so far there was no doubt that the bridge was in a dangerous condition. In his opinion it was a question of repairing the bridge, more or less for times sake or choosing the more economical erection of a new steel structure. In consequence Mr. Clarke would like to know which the committee preferred.

Members spoke in support of keeping the wooden bridge, and it was unanimously decided to ask Mr. Clarke to report on repairs necessary.

Mr. Short stated that the old bridge was regarded as an essential part of the park. A new steel bridge would look definitely out of place.

Mr. Amooore agreed with Mr. Short, and added that the removal of the bridge would mean the loss of a popular link with old associations. It was largely a matter of sentiment, he continued.

"But there is a great deal in sentiment, after all," stated Mr. Short.

Other members were in entire agreement with the previous speakers and the matter of publicity through postcards was mentioned. It was thought that New Plymouth had received a good deal of publicity through the post-card showing the view looking up the main lake past Poet's Bridge and With Mt. Egmont in the background. To remove the bridge which was so much a part of the picture might seem like breaking faith with the tourists.

If the bridge was dangerous it ought to be barricaded off, said Mr. Stainton. It was not as dangerous as all that, explained Mr. Horton. The bridge was comparatively safe unless there was a gale which would make it extremely precarious. It was the manner in which the disrepair of the bridge had been accentuated in the last heavy gale that had led him to report to the committee.

Mr. T. Horton in his monthly report stated that early in the month the committee had inspected the park and had made certain decisions in regard to future operations in some areas. These had been noted and the work would be done as soon as possible.

The Sanders bequest rhododendrons, which had been growing in the nursery for two years, had been planted into their permanent positions, with the exception of a few of the smaller growing species. These were transplanted into nursery rows to grow on and when further advanced would be planted in the drained swamp area, being especially prepared for them.

Preparation for planting the new forest reserve at Brooklands was the work being done at present. A good deal of draining had had to be done to get the water off the low-lying portions, and there was still a good deal of grubbing, digging and fencing to be done.

Necessary general maintenance work was regularly attended to and the conservatories, fernery, sports ground and the park generally was in a fair condition.

He had visited Windsor Park Stratford, to give assistance and advice as the committee had requested at a previous meeting.

The committee considered the amended proposals from the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycle Club regarding the track lighting equipment at the Pukekura Park sportsground, and decided that it was not prepared to recommend the Borough Council to depart from the proposed agreement as arranged at the council's meeting.

TH, JUNE 23, 1936
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PUKEKURA TERRACES
RE-FORMING SOUTHERN BANK.
BOTTOM ROWS TO BE JOINED.

Yesterday members of the Pukekura Park Committee inspected the park sportsground and approved of a plan to re-form the southern bank of terraces. Present at the inspection were the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C. (chairman),

Messrs. W. F. Short, C. E. Bellringer, F. S. Varnham, F. Parker, E. Jackson, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton.

The plan involves grading the bank in the same way as the east and west banks have been graded. The terraces will be re-formed and the number increased from seven to 11. Precautions will be taken not to disturb the roots of the pine trees at the top of the terraces.

The two bottom terraces will be lowered until they are on the same level as those on the eastern bank, to which they will then be joined. These bottom terraces will form a continuous line of seats, but the re-formation work will in no way affect the growth of trees in the gap between the eastern and southern banks.

The work will be done on a subsidised basis, but cannot be commenced until the sanction of the Minister of Employment, the Hon. H. T. Armstrong, has been obtained.

TH, JULY 15, 1936
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Varied work by the Pukekura Park staff in the maintenance and development of the park and Brooklands was reported at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night, when the Hon. James McLeod presided.

Since the last meeting of the committee the principal work had been the continued preparation of the ground at Brooklands for planting the new forest reserve, reported the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. Most of the first section of the scheme would be ready for planting next week, and he hoped then to make a start with the planting.

It was doubtful if they would be able to get the swamp area ready for planting, but if this was the case they would dig all that was possible and leave it to fallow and sweeten during the summer, the planting to take place next autumn. The young trees (white pines) could easily be held in the nursery for a season.

The boundary fence between Brooklands and the properties of Messrs. Bond and Grundy had been erected, and each party had been charged their proportion of the cost. Part of the fence had been erected through the centre of a very wet, swampy area, which it had been necessary to drain before being able to proceed with the fencing. Fortunately silver pine posts and strainers were used, and thus it was ensured that the fence would be durable and practically everlasting.

The next work of major importance was the new terrace work in the sportsground. Over 20 men were employed on that work and a good start had been made. Every effort would be made at week-ends to provide a maximum of seating accommodation.

First-class turf was difficult to procure, but they should use what was available as economically as was possible and consistent with making a good job. If an appeal was made someone might know where good turf was available, and thus help to overcome the difficulty in that

respect. It would be most unfortunate if inferior material had to be used on such an important undertaking.

The decision to convert the vinery at Brooklands into a conservatory had been carried out, and the necessary staging and internal alterations being completed, the stock or plants had been transferred from the old house, and the whole arrangement appeared to be a big improvement.

The ground round the belt of trees planted to the south and west of Brooklands bush two years ago was being cleaned, and the rough undergrowth scythed, forked off and burned.

The fernery was receiving its annual overhaul, and that was being done without the necessity of closing up, as in former years.

TH, JULY 15, 1936

DECLARED UNSAFE

POET'S BRIDGE TO BE REPAIRED

A decision that signs be placed on the Poet's Bridge, in Pukekura Park, warning the public that it is unsafe, and that the Pukekura Park Committee confer with the New Plymouth Borough Council regarding necessary repairs and the method of financing these, was reached by the committee last night.

The disrepair of the bridge was first reported to the committee by the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, some time ago and the committee requested the Borough Council to have the borough engineer, Mr. C. Clarke, inspect the state of the bridge and to report on its condition and the estimated cost of complete repair. Later Mr. Clarke suggested that, after inspecting the structure, and estimating the cost of repairs, he thought it might be advisable and would be cheaper to erect a light steel bridge across the lake in place of the present structure.

After discussion the committee decided that the present bridge should be kept, even if solely for its sentimental value and connections with the past. They also referred to the manner in which the structure toned in with the natural beauty of the park.

Last night a full report and estimate was received from Mr. Clarke, who wrote: "I have inspected the condition of the Poet's Bridge in Pukekura Park and find that the bridge is to-day in an unsafe condition. I would accordingly recommend that the bridge be closed to traffic until such time as repairs are effected.

"I understand that the Park Committee desire the bridge to be so repaired that the present design will be retained. I have therefore prepared an estimate for the necessary repairs to enable the present bridge to be repaired in its present design.

"The condition of the bridge is such that very little of the existing structure is fit for use in the rebuilding of the bridge. The abutments, still work and some timber can be used and have been allowed for. Otherwise the estimate provides for new materials throughout.

The existing bridge was built in totara, but I would suggest that in the rebuilding some of the structure be constructed in Australian hardwoods.

"I estimate the cost of reconstruction as follows: 5000 feet new timber (dressed) £200, bolts and ironwork £25, superstructure erected temporarily for rebuilding £18 10s, nails, paint and incidentals £35, labour £110, contingencies estimated at 10 per cent. of the total £39. This made the total cost £427 10s.

"I am satisfied that a light steel bridge could be erected at a considerable saving on the above, but I agree with the committee that such a bridge would not harmonise with the surroundings to the same extent as the existing structure."

TH, AUGUST 12, 1936

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The Poet's Bridge across the upper lake in Pukekura Park has now been closed to traffic, both ends barricaded, and notices to the effect that it is unsafe have been attached, said the caretaker, Mr. T. Horton, at last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board. Those present were the Hon. James McLeod (chairman), Messrs. F. Amooore, E. King, E. Jackson, W. F. Short, F. S. Varnham, F. Parker, C. E. Bellringer, H. Dempsey and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

It was considered advisable to have a new bridge in place by Christmas, if possible, on account of the number of visitors expected at the park about this time. In a short discussion members said that the new bridge would have to be pleasing to the eye as well as useful, and a concrete structure was suggested. A sub-committee was appointed to confer with the borough engineer on the subject, and it was agreed that when the plans had been approved no time should be lost in having the work put in hand.

The caretaker's report stated that seasonal operations, such as pruning and planting, had been carried out. The cleaning up of branches and rubbish next to the racecourse had been completed and about 30 trees planted there. Paths had been re-formed and a new bridge erected at the far end of the water-lily lakes. All unnecessary growth on Flagpole Hill had been removed, giving the trees planted four years ago every chance of full development. Direction notices from various parts of the town had been collected and were being repainted.

The 130 pohutukawas had been delivered and planted on the newly-formed Western Park terraces. The superintendent visited the Ngamotu seaside reserve to advise the committee on planting and improvement. The new terrace work on the sportsground had been seriously retarded by inclement weather, but the turf for the work, cut from one of the Brooklands paddocks, was of excellent quality and the best ever used on the grounds. The first section of the new forest planting scheme had been begun and the preparation of the land, except the swamp area, was completed this week. A complete detailed list of the planted would be available at the next

meeting. It was doubtful if white pines could be planted in the swamp this season, but this portion was being dug in readiness for planting. This would be quite beneficial if it was allowed to fallow for a season. One hundred macrocarpa trees were planted to fill gaps and to extend the area planted two years ago at the south-west side of the Brooklands bush.

SPORTSGROUND LIGHTING.

The New Plymouth Amateur Athletics and Cycle Club wrote asking that the Park Board executive should meet representatives of the club and the club's solicitor with a view to ascertaining whether the board or the board's solicitor could suggest that there was anything unreasonable in the alterations to the draft agreement submitted by the club.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. Amooore, the following resolution was passed: That while the Pukekura Park Committee is not anxious to assume responsibility for the lighting system in Pukekura Park it is willing to do so only on the terms or agreement as drafted by the borough solicitor at the request of the committee, that the club be notified that acceptance or otherwise of the agreement must be received by September 7, and that in the event or non-acceptance the club be required to remove the light standards to the alignment of the new terrace face, at their own expense.

It was decided that in recognition of Arbor Day members or the committee should plant native timber trees in Brooklands on Saturday morning. Mr. Horton said that Brooklands possessed one of the finest native timber reserves in the Dominion.

Mr. Horton reported that difficulty had been experienced in obtaining timber for the terrace seats. An order had been let to a local firm, but could not be fulfilled pending the arrival of the timber from the mill. At present temporary seating was being used.

Notification was received from the Borough Council that the sum of £378 had been placed on next year's estimate for repairs to the entrance road to Brooklands, and that in the meantime the borough engineer would effect temporary repairs to the road.

The Taranaki Women's Hockey Association wrote thanking the board for the use of the park for their representative match.

TH, SEPTEMBER 9, 1936

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

POET'S BRIDGE DESIGN

The question of the reconstruction of the Poet's Bridge was discussed at last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee. Mr. F. Amooore presided, and there were present: Messrs. E. R. C. Gilmour, F. Parker, E. J. Carr, F. S. Varnham, E. Jackson, E. King, W. F. Short, C. E. Bellringer, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent).

The borough engineer, Mr. Clarke, submitted suggested plans for the reconstruction of the Poet's Bridge.

In answer to a question by Mr. Varnham, the chairman said that the council had

given permission to use some of Sanders bequest monies for the purpose of rebuilding the bridge.

Mr. Carr moved that the design, approximating the present bridge, and with a concrete arch, should be adopted. Mr. Varnham seconded the motion. The cost would be about £600.

It was suggested that decision might be left to a full meeting of the committee, as some members favoured an all-wooden structure.

Mr. Bellringer expressed himself as in favour of the bridge suggested in the motion. He agreed, however, that it was an important matter that should not be rushed into. He thought the chairman, the Hon. Jas. McLeod, should be present at the meeting at which the question was decided.

Mr. Clarke offered to prepare photographs of the site with the various designs of bridges included in them. This would clearly show the advantages of the various bridges he had suggested. In answer to a question, he said that even if the matter were decided at once the bridge could not be renewed by Christmas.

The original resolution was then withdrawn and it was decided to defer decision of the matter until the next meeting. It was decided to ask Mr. Clarke to prepare photographs of two of the designs as he had suggested.

It was decided to put the work of the re-formation of the sportsground terraces under the supervision of the borough engineer.

SEASONAL WORK.

Mr. T. Horton (park superintendent) reported that the usual seasonal work had been attended to and urgent repairs to paths, fences, tools and buildings carried out. Planting of the new native forest area had been completed. Trees to the value of £106 15s had been planted, of which the park nursery had supplied plants to the value of £43 5s. The total cost of labour, trees and fencing was approximately £300. The work had been well done and he was confident the scheme would be a great success.

The wages of the staff had been adjusted to meet the altered conditions of employment. The additional expenditure on the permanent staff would be only 11s a week.

The usual annual overhaul was to be given the sports area.

The superintendent was authorised to supervise the annual pruning of various trees within the borough. He was also instructed to supply the Borough Council with a report on the cutting of the pines in the Ngamotu Domain.

The Borough Council advised that the council would accept the responsibility of the maintenance of the entrance road to Brooklands.

Had anything further been done in connection with the memorial gates and a concrete wall, Mr. Jackson asked.

Mr. Gilmour said that the borough engineer was preparing plans.

Mr. Stainton said that the sub-committee that had been set up in connection with Hughes Walk had recommended that the following notice board should be set up at the head of the walk:—

"Hughes Walk.— This walk is named after the late Robert Clinton Hughes, to commemorate his long, useful and unbroken service on the Pukekura Park Committee. As a foundation member in 1876, he continued as an active member until 1935. 1876—1935."

TH, SEPTEMBER 9, 1936 PUKEKURA TERRACES EXTENSIVE RE-FORMATION.

So slow has been the progress of the re-formation of the Pukekura Park sportsground terraces on account of the wet weather that it was feared that the planned work would have to be modified in order to complete the undertaking this season. However, the New Plymouth Borough Council has placed its engineer, Mr. C. Clarke, in charge of the work and it is his intention to place about 20 more men on the job so that the entire re-formation will be completed within two months.

Members of the Pukekura Park Committee inspected the area this morning to finally decide whether to continue with the full plan or not. They were impressed with the improvement that has already been effected and were of the opinion that when completed as planned the terraces will have been improved out of recognition. Mr. Clarke, who was also present, said that he hoped to be able to transfer another 20 of the borough's relief labourers to the work within a week. Furthermore, it was his intention, as soon as the weather was dry enough, to use lorries to transport the earth. This would be a great improvement on the slow and tedious wheelbarrow method that was now being used.

The plan of operation is an extensive one and comprises practically the entire re-formation of the eastern and southern terraces. In addition, these two banks are being linked by three terraces which fill in the previously empty south-eastern corner.

TH, SEPTEMBER 15, 1936 BEAUTY OF BROOKLANDS WIDE AREA CLEARED

The past five months have seen a transformation effected to an area of rough wasteland in Brooklands Park. A wild area, partly swamp and partly a hill slope covered with fern, gorse, blackberry and broom has been developed into a plantation of practically every variety of New Zealand native timber trees.

The unsightly area at Brooklands had for some time detracted from the general beauty of the park, and rather than leave the area in its dilapidated condition it was decided to clear up the whole section, drain the swamp, thoroughly cultivate the whole area and plant it with New Zealand native trees, few of which are left growing in the immediate vicinity of New Plymouth. Nearly all the old timber trees that were growing in the forests here were removed years ago for timber.

The scheme was suggested by Mr. T. Horton, F.R.H.S., superintendent of Pukekura Park, received the approval of the Park committee and was then confirmed by the New Plymouth

Borough Council. The Borough Council was so pleased with the project that it voted £500 towards the expense, to be spread over four years. A gift of £250 towards the carrying out of the work was made by the Bruce Trust.

The work was put in hand early in April and all of the operations planned for this year have now been completed. Trees to the value of £106 15s were planted, of which the park nursery supplied plants to the value of £43 5s. The total cost of labour, trees and fencing was approximately £300.

All the swamp area which was drained early in the winter months was dug and planted, in white pines. The principal trees planted on the main area were kauris, of which 300 were planted in two blocks. Also planted were quite large numbers of matai, rimu, tararua, tawapou, red and silver beech, puriri, maire, rewarewa, and in fact, practically every variety of native timber tree.

On the high range above the plantation a row of pohutukawa trees was planted to make the eastern shelter belt, Lawsoniana trees have also been planted on the southern side for shelter.

Mr. Horton is confident of the success of the planting scheme. Next year a similar adjoining area is to be planted.

TH, SEPTEMBER 15, 1936 WONDERFUL GROWTH Semi-tropical Plants SCOPE FOR GARDENERS NEW PLYMOUTH CLIMATE

The surprising suitability of the North Taranaki soil and climate for the growing of all kinds of flowering shrubs, even tropical varieties, was stressed to a Taranaki Herald reporter this morning by Mr. T. Horton, F.R.H.S., superintendent of Pukekura Park.

Mr. Horton showed the reporter a beautiful crimson bloom, *Clianthus dampieri*, which as a rule grows only in hot and dry climates. In New Plymouth, however, it not only grows well but blossoms all through the winter. If this semi-tropical plant could be grown so successfully, said Mr. Horton, there was practically no limit to the variety of plants that could be grown by New Plymouth gardeners provided the necessary care was given.

The *Clianthus dampieri*, more commonly known as Sturt's Desert Pea, is a native of Western Australia and grows in hot, dry arid districts and is considered one of the most beautiful of the Australian native flowering plants.

Being a hot country plant it naturally does not grow well in New Zealand generally, but much to the surprise of visiting horticulturists it does remarkably well in sheltered positions in North Taranaki. At a meeting of the Institute of Horticulture in New Plymouth last night a perfect bloom was exhibited by Mr. I. Waddle, an employee at the Pukekura Park fernery, which he grew in his own garden. He stated that the plants had flowered throughout the winter.

Mr. Horton considers this to be a remarkable performance and other New Plymouth horticulturists are surprised at seeing blooms on this rare plant at this time of the year. Mr. Waddle's

performance is no fluke, however, as Mr. F. Huthnance, gardener at "Maranui," has a similar plant that has also been blooming throughout the winter months. The success of these growers acquaints horticulturists as nothing else can do, with the fact that in Taranaki can be grown a very wide range of flowers and shrubs that it is generally thought would be impossible here because of the climate. If this tropical plant can be grown so successfully then many other varieties of rare plants that are not so difficult to grow would do well if they were put in here.

**TH, OCTOBER 5, 1936
PARK SPORTSGROUND
BIG IMPROVEMENT MADE**

In Pukekura park, New Plymouth has a scenic reserve second to none in New Zealand and if the improvements at present being carried out to the park sportsground make the anticipated difference to that area there is no doubt that the sportsground, too, will take its place among the finest in the Dominion. Previously the ground had several disadvantages which are now in the course of being removed. The improvement work, which has been in progress for some weeks, is being carried out on the eastern and southern terraces.

The sharp, ugly bends which previously marred the Fillis Street end of the eastern terraces, the gap between the eastern and southern terraces and the pavilion end of the southern terraces have been cut away and now the bank presents a smooth, unbroken sweep. This work has added 500 square yards to the area of the sportsground. Besides adding infinitely to the appearance of the ground it enhances the area from a utility and sports aspect, especially with regard to the running track.

Besides this work on the bank surrounding the eastern and southern sides of the ground a big improvement is also being made to the terraces. The two lower eastern terraces are being continued in an attractive sweep round "Horse-shoe Bend" to join the southern series. These are easily accessible by steps and make one realise the emptiness of the gap that they have hidden. Behind these connecting terraces the ground is to rise in a gentle slope to provide even greater accommodation for spectators. Already the seating space has been increased considerably. A feature of the work in this respect is the replacing of wooden foundations by concrete, a fact considered advisable for length of duration and firmness. The board seating will be securely fastened to these concrete piles.

The undertaking is no small one and extremely unfavourable weather has held back the work to a great extent, but it thought that, providing the fine weather holds, the southern terraces should be completed this month, the eastern terraces probably taking some time longer. According to the authorities, however, some difficulty is likely to be experienced at the southern end because of the pine trees, which take the moisture and food from the ground

and thus prevents grass on the terraces from showing the verdant appearance it otherwise would. Another disadvantage is the crumbling caused on the top terraces by the roots and the pine needles killing other growth. This will result in dilapidated terraces until the pines are removed.

Nevertheless, the improvements will prove ideal from every standpoint, accommodation, ease of access and beauty.

**TH, OCTOBER 14, 1936
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

At the meeting of the Pukekura Park committee last night the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C., presided, and there were present Messrs. E. Jackson, F. Amooore, F. S. Varnham, H. Dempsey, C. E. Bellringer, F. Parker and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

The caretaker, Mr. T. Horton, reported that the staff had been engaged in maintenance work, including the annual overhaul of the sportsground, which proved on inspection to be in a very rough and weedy condition, necessitating much more work than usual. The fertility harrows purchased last year had been used to great advantage, having torn out about ten lorry-loads of weeds, levelled out the hard uneven surface and prepared the ground for seed. All bare and thin places were resown, and a dressing or two tons of lime was applied to the whole area. Top-dressing had also been put on where most needed. Two tons of Port Albert soil, supplied by the Cricket Association, was applied to the central cricket pitches. In addition to sowing the pitches with the usual certified rye grass, a mixture of fine grasses suitable for a first-class sward had been sown.

PROVIDING CRICKET PITCHES.

While everything possible was being done to provide a permanent sward, local conditions to a great extent nullified the efforts. The growing grass was too tender to stand up to the hard cutting and heavy rolling at the beginning of the cricket season, and consequently a large portion of it died out. In spite of this it was hoped to provide hard surfaced, good playing pitches.

The outside area of the sportsground, below the new terrace work, had not yet been put in order, and it could not be done until some new drains were put in and the electric light standards set back to their new positions. The mowing machines had been put in order and overhauled for the new season's work.

Brooklands garden area and lawns were in splendid order and looked particularly well.

The Amateur Athletic Association was granted the use of the sportsground on Tuesday evenings as in previous years during the coming season.

On the recommendation of the superintendent it was decided to advise the New Plymouth Waterside Workers' Union that, owing to the new works and the recent unfavourable weather conditions, it would not be able to grant the use of the ground for the Labour Day sports.

**TH, NOVEMBER 11, 1936
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

At a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night there were present Messrs. F. Amooore (chairman), E. R. C. Gilmour, H. Dempsey, E. King, W. F. short, F. Parker, E. Jackson, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (Park Superintendent).

Mr. Horton in his report stated that the rapid growth of the grass recently had made it necessary for the terraces to be mown frequently. The men had been supplied with turf for the new terraces and the balance would be available for the completion of the work. The two sign-boards for the R. C. Hughes Memorial walk had been erected. The Sanders bequest rhododendrons had been thoroughly cultivated and the many that were in bloom had been found true to name and the raiser's description.

Mr. Horton was granted to attend the conference of park superintendents in Christchurch at the end of January.

On the motion of the chairman, the committee decided to extend to all horticultural bodies an invitation to hold a conference at New Plymouth.

**TH, DECEMBER 9, 1936
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee was held last night, Mr. F. Amooore presiding in the absence of the chairman, the Hon. J. McLeod.

The superintendent (Mr. T. Horton) stated there was nothing of special interest to report, the work of the month being chiefly general maintenance. The new work in the sportsground was nearing completion and should be finished in a few days.

Mr. G. W. Gorrige wrote asking if the committee would consider the erection of swings and a see-saw on the area of the park between Hughes Walk and Gilbert Street. He said it would be of great benefit to many children and the cost would not be considerable.

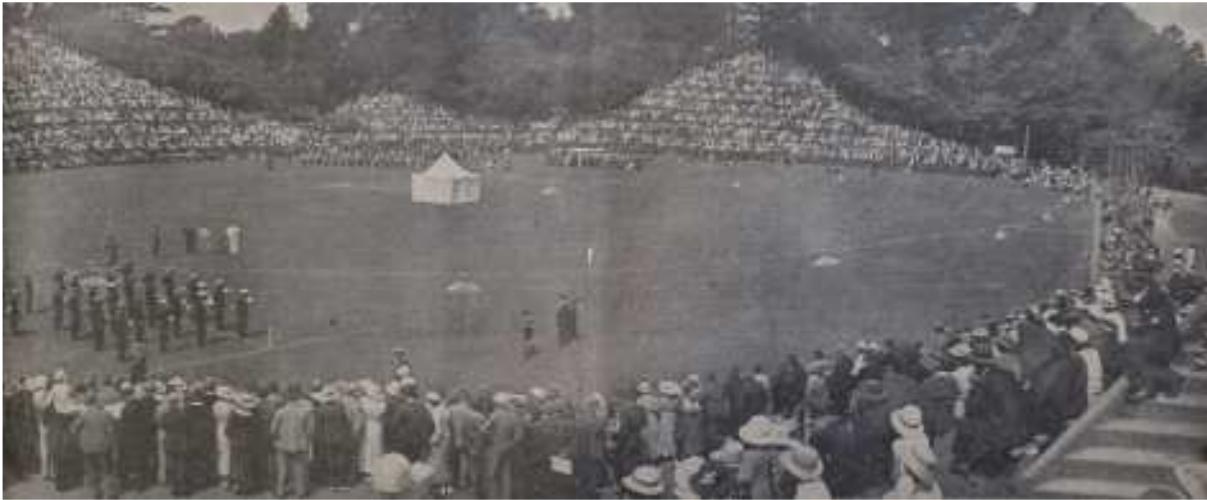
The superintendent stated that there had been two swings which were broken and were at present being repaired. When in commission they got a good deal of use. The matter of their re-erection was left in the hands of the superintendent.

The New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club wrote asking the committee to have the 100 yards track lights moved to the eastern side of the ground.

It was decided to ask the club how it was proposed to meet the expense involved, as the committee felt it had gone to its limit so far as the 'lighting of the ground was concerned.

The club was granted the use of the sportsground for an electric light meeting on the evening of Boxing Day.

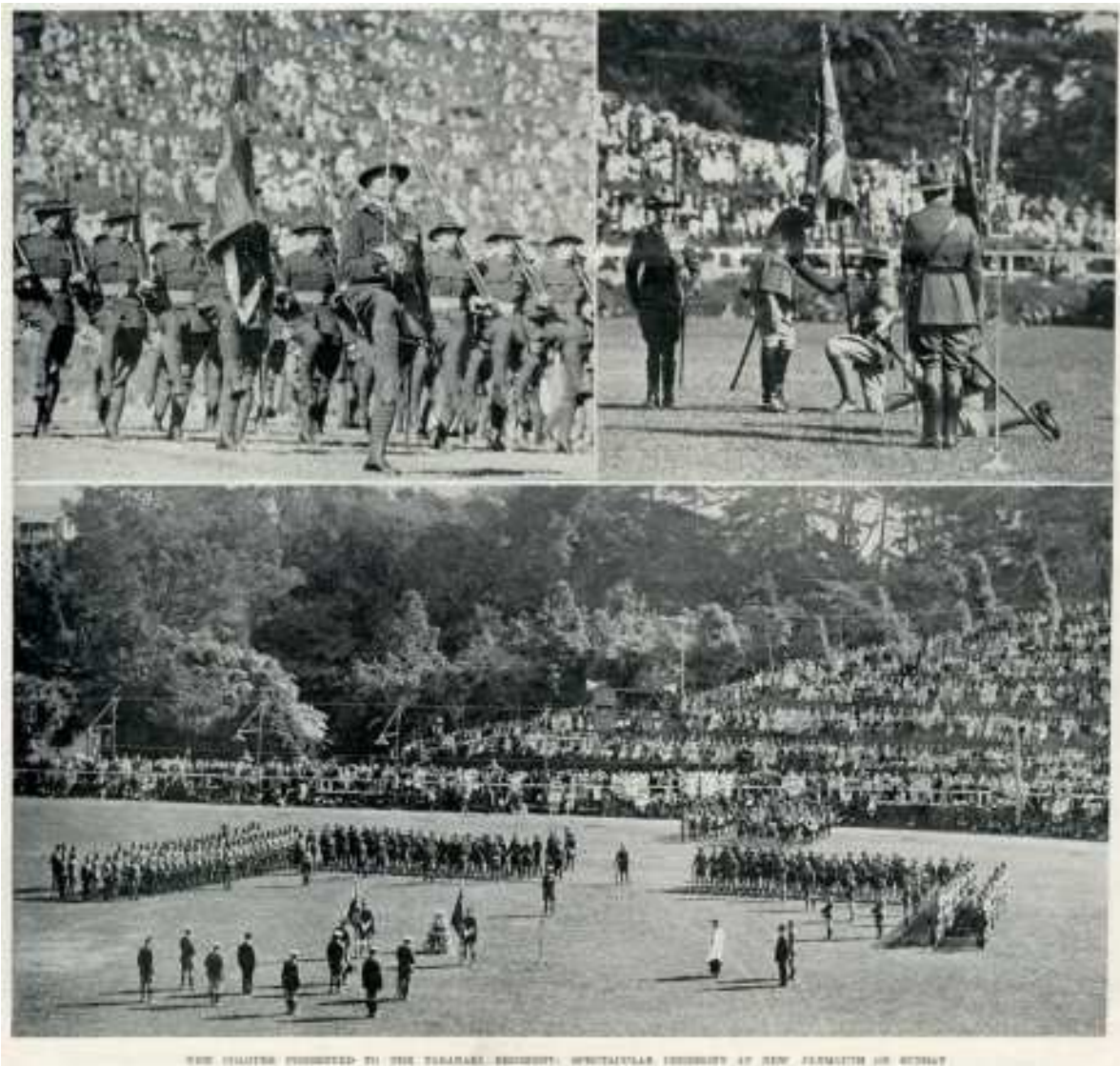
The question of painting and repair work required to buildings in the park was referred to Messrs. Amooore, F. Parker and the superintendent for a report to the next meeting of the committee.



Dominion Brass Band contest. *Taranaki Herald*, March 4, 1936

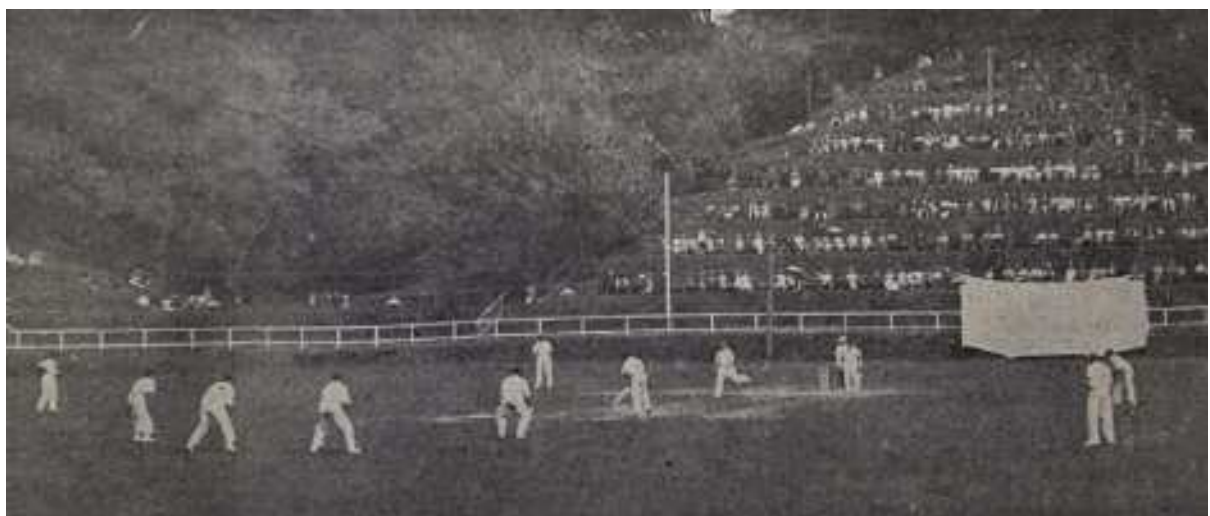


Dominion Brass Band Contest, Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections AWNS-19360304-51-2



THE TARRANT REGIMENT AT THE TARRANT REGIMENTAL, HONOURABLE, REGIMENTAL OF NEW ZEALAND IN 1914

Taranaki Regiment receiving new Regimental Colours from Governor-General, Lord Galway. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections AWNS-19360325-54-2



Taranaki v M.C.C. *Taranaki Herald*, February 3, 1936

1937

A new entrance was put at the west end of Fillis Street, which would allow access to the park avoiding the sportsground when sports were in progress.

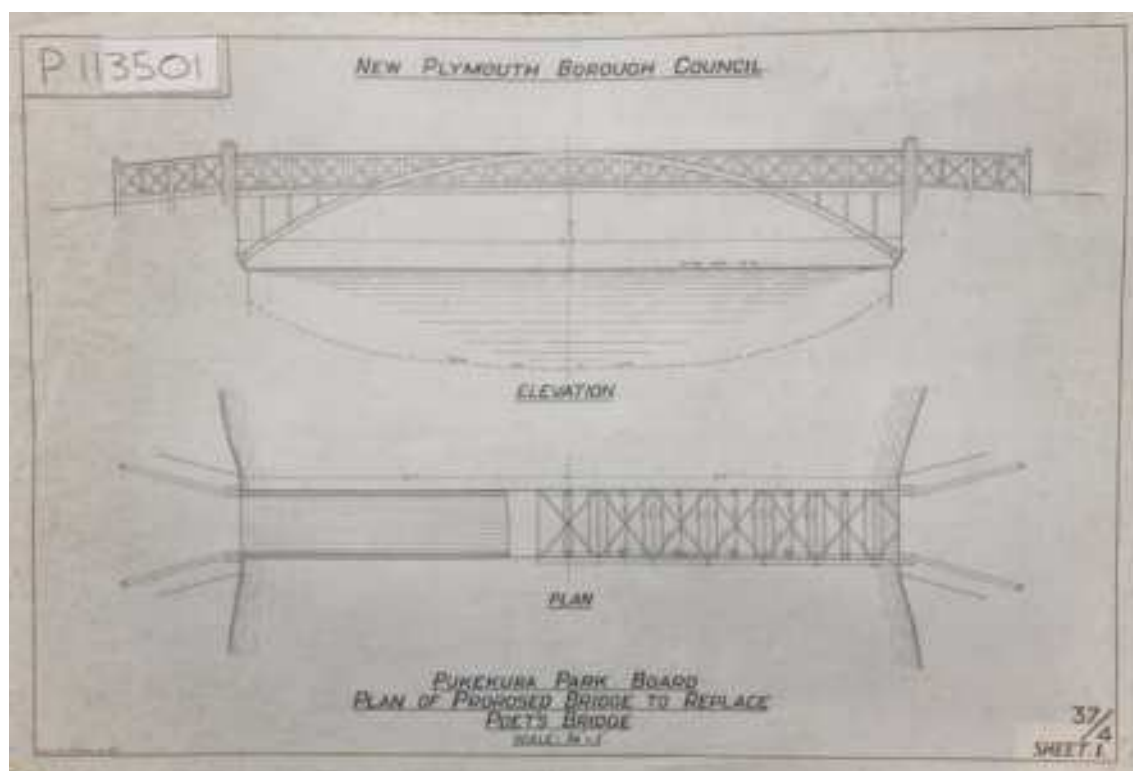
A memorial tablet with the names of deceased donors erected in 1906 on the south side of Cannon hill was removed. The tablet made of marble was carved to represent an open book with the names engraved on the pages. Over the years it had been the target of vandalism. The tablet carver was stonemason W. F. Short, long-time park board/committee member. He had on many occasions done remedial work on the tablet.

Extensive tree-planting had been carried out during the 1937 season, which included 360 native timber trees in the extension of the forest area at Brooklands, also 160 Lawsoniana and 250 macrocarpas had been planted to protect the native bush in the gully running towards Avenue Road corner and Upjohn Street. At the back of the old orchard site at Brooklands 550 pinus radiata had been planted behind the old pine plantation, and 40 white pines had been put in the swamp ground near the rhododendrons. Around the lake and in other parts of Pukekura Park 165 tree ferns had been put in, and 650 native trees were planted in the new botanic reserve at Fillis Street making a total of 2175 trees planted. Twenty-eight trees were to be planted in the forest area to mark Arbor Day.

Plans drawn up by Mr. Clarke for The Poet's Bridge replacement, made of timber and similar to the original were accepted by the committee. F. W. Whittaker won the contract with a tender price of £877. The money for the construction came from the Charles Score Sanders bequest fund. Unfortunately, Mr. Whittaker suffered a fatal heart attack while working on the bridge construction. When the bridge was completed the question of colour had to be finalised. The committee decided to throw the question open to the public, unfortunately no direct written evidence has been found stating what colour was chosen, however from reading accounts of subsequent bridge paintings the author believes it was the first time red was used and has probably remained that colour until today.

The pine trees behind the eastern terrace of the sportsground were finally felled allowing a further 650 trees to be planted in the new Fillis Street gully native botanical reserve.

The new main entrance was constructed in 1937, designed by Messrs Griffiths and Syme. The entrance with two 30ft tall towers with a base 7ft 6in square incorporating ticket boxes was an imposing structure. It was originally intended to be built with Mount Somers stone, but this was difficult to acquire and expensive, so the architects came up with an alternative which was to build the towers out of concrete and plaster the outside then point it to resemble stone. This was accepted and the contract to build the gates went to Boon Bros, of New Plymouth. Committee member W. F. Short, stonemason by trade, was not happy with the decision to imitate stone.



Plan of Proposed Bridge to Replace The Poet's Bridge. (Puke Ariki ARC2014-059)



Maori Girls of Te Kotahitangi Leisure Society performing a Haka at the Coronation Sports Carnival. *Auckland Weekly News*, May 19, 1937



Fred Parker Lawn. *Auckland Weekly News*, April 7, 1937
Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections AWNS-19370407-55-4

TH, FEBRUARY 10, 1937

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Thieves have been at work in Pukekura Park and Brooklands according to a report submitted to the park committee last night by Mr. T. Horton, superintendent.

In December the tea howe was broken into and sweets and cigarettes were stolen. Glass in the main door was broken to effect an entrance.

Just after Christmas the contribution boxes in the fernery at the Brooklands conservatory were wrenched from their positions and stolen. The matters had been reported to the police, he stated, and were being investigated.

Mr. Horton reported as follows on fernery receipts and the number of visitors during the Christmas season. Figures for the 1935-36 season are given in parentheses. Visitors, 4743 (3630) an increase of 1113. cash, £118 11s 6d (£90 15s), an increase of £27 16s 6d.

During the past 12 months there was a total of 12,722 visitors and cash collected amounted to £318 1s.

General maintenance work in the park was reported by Mr. Horton, who stated that repairs to picnic tables and seats were effected in time for the Christmas season. New shingle had been placed on the racecourse walk which had tended to become very muddy in wet weather. Timber from the old seats on the terrace had been overhauled and stored for future use, and the grass on the terraces had been cut three times. The heavy rain had caused exceptional growth here, which was most beneficial to the new turf work.

The young pohutukawa trees had flowered profusely. The trees were doing very well, and would soon present a fine picture. Young forest trees planted last season were also doing well.

The committee asked Mr. Horton to submit a report on cleaning the Brooklands lake which is becoming choked with rushes.

The committee approved a plan submitted by Mr. C. Clarke, borough engineer, for a steel and wood bridge almost exactly similar in appearance to the condemned Poet's Bridge. It was decided to seek the Borough Council's approval of the plan and permission to allot the estimated cost, £750, from the Sanders bequest. If this approval is given tenders will immediately be called for the work.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Fillis Street Side Entrance to Park. The chairman brought forward the matter of a suitable entrance to the Park to avoid visitors having to go through the Sports Ground when sports are in progress and it was resolved that the chairman and the secretary await on the Works Committee of the Borough Council with a view to have a footpath made from the Main Gates to the side entrance of the Park past Mr. Hayton's house.

Memorial Tablet. Mr. Gilmour brought forward the unsightly appearance of the Tablet on Cannon Hill and it was resolved that the matter be left in the hands of Messrs. Short and Stainton to have the Tablet removed.

OTAGO DAILY TIMES

FEBRUARY 27, 1937

THE POET'S BRIDGE

A plan of the proposed bridge to replace the Poet's bridge over the lake in Pukekura Park, submitted by the park committee, was approved by the New Plymouth Borough Council at a recent meeting.

The committee was authorised to erect the new bridge in accordance with the plans and to pay the cost, with the exception of the cost of the demolition of the old bridge, out of the funds bequeathed to the council by the late Mr. C. S. Sanders, for the purposes of such permanent improvements to the park as will be of benefit to the public. The estimated cost of the new bridge is £800.

**TH, FEBRUARY 27, 1937
THE POET'S BRIDGE TENDER**

**PUKEKURA PARK BOARD.
RE-ERECTION POET'S BRIDGE.**

Tenders, addressed to the undersigned, will be received up till noon on Saturday, March 13, 1937, for the Demolition and Re-erection of the "Poet's Bridge," Pukekura Park.

Plans, specifications and schedule of quantities may be inspected at the Borough Engineer's Office, New Plymouth.

P. E. STANTON,
Hon. Secretary.

**TH, MARCH 17, 1937
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee was held last night. Those present were the Hon. J. McLeod, M.L.C. (chairman), and Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, F. Amore, F. S. Varnham, E. King, E. Jackson, W. F. Short, F. Parker and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

The superintendent, Mr. T. H. Horton, reported having communicated with the director of the Cawthron Institute and an officer of the Department of Agriculture concerning the eradication of rushes from the lakes, but no sure method of destruction was known. It was proposed shortly to let the water out of Brooklands lake and make experiments.

Preliminary work was being done on the Fillis Street gully preparatory to winter planting. Improvements had been made at the sportsground, which was now in excellent condition.

The banks of the large lake had been trimmed and made tidy, and it was proposed to plant another 50 pongas around this lake. Strong winds and heavy rain had made it difficult to keep the park in its usual order, but the staff had co-operated willingly in maintenance work.

The flower beds were bright and attractive and the fernery and glasshouse had never looked better. Attendances had kept well up to the average, which was considered very good in view of the bad weather.

The statement for the past financial year showed a debit balance of £1007 12s 10d, less £827 18s 3d which was due to be refunded. The actual deficit was £180.

It seemed that it would be necessary to dispense with some of the labour at present employed, said Mr. Stainton.

"That would be impossible," replied Mr. Horton; "we have little enough labour to keep the park in good condition now."

It might be impossible to continue employing it in view of the heavy deficit, said Mr. Stainton.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

POET'S BRIDGE. Four tenders were received for this and it was resolved that subject to the Borough Engineer's approval the tender of F. W. Whittaker, £877 was accepted subject to the Borough Council agreeing to the additional expenditure being recouped from the Sanders bequest.

PINE TREES, EASTERN TERRACE. It was resolved to request Messrs. Brewster Bros., and E. R. C. Gilmour to have the fallen trees removed at the earliest possible date to enable planting to proceed.

**TH, APRIL 14, 1937
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
MEMORIAL GATES**

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park committee was held last night. The Hon. J. McLeod presided and there were also present Messrs. E. R. C. Gilmour, E. J. Carr, F. Amore, H. Dempsey, E. Jackson, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker, F. S. Varnham and P. E. Stainton.

Sketches of the proposed memorial entrance gate to Pukekura Park were submitted by Messrs. Griffiths and Syme. The gates, which provide for two impressive pylons in Somers Stone would form a striking entrance to the park. The pylons would be 30 feet high and seven feet six inches thick with ticket boxes in their base.

The estimated costs of the pylons and gates alone was £1000. If walls in the same stone were erected on either side of the gate the total would be £2500, but concrete walls could be erected at a cost of £1500 for the gates and walls.

The chairman said that about £1450 would be available. The borough engineer will be asked to confer with the architects and then the committee will meet on the site to finalise.

Mr. Horton reported that the new forest area was in good order. About 50 trees required to be replaced, but this was only a small proportion of the 3000 planted.

Flower beds had been attended to and all the bulbs were now planted. These should make a good showing in the spring.

About 50 acorns from Windsor Park, England, have been received from Mr. W. C. Weston for distribution in the district. They had been planted and year-old trees would be available next year.

HYDRANGEAS BROKEN.

The hydrangeas, which have attracted much attention, had been badly mutilated in many places through people breaking off large and beautiful branches.

Board members expressed concern at the carelessness of people in damaging the plants. The practice must be stopped.

Income during the year ended March 31 was: Rents £84 10s, and boats, fernery, sales from glass-house and donations, £444 17s 9d; a total of £529 7s 9d. Last year the total was £459 17s, the increase being £69 10s; £67 of this increase represented extra fernery receipts, which meant that 2280 more people paid for admission to the fernery than in the previous year.

The increased popularity of the ferneries is shown by the following figures: For the 17 months from March, 1932, 590 people visited the fernery each month. In the next 14 months the average was 714 a month. For the 15 months from September, 1934, there was an average of 667 each month, and during the next ten months there were no less than 1000 visitors each month. For the seven months from September, 1936, to date, the monthly average was 1430.

This meant that in the past five years 50,000 people had paid for admission to the ferneries. Where it took 17 months to sell 10,000 tickets five years ago, the same number were now disposed of in seven months.

The committee's balance-sheet for the year ended March 31 showed a credit balance of £95 14s 6d. Receipts from Pukekura Park were: Cash in hand £66 6s 7d, boats £102 4s 6d, fernery £332 17s, donations £9 13s 6d, rent £386 5s 6d, borough subsidy £199 14s 4d, transfer from trust account £249 3s 9d, from Sanders bequest £726 10s, Flannagan bequest £39 12s 9d, sale trees £8, interest £4, weighing machine £2 10s, groundmen £6 10s 9d. Expenditure was: Wages £1043 5s 4d, maintenance £140 11s 4d, printing £21 3s 2d, light £22 14s 6d, insurance £21 19s 3d, telephone £3 19s 4d, plants £21 15s 1d, superannuation £6 18s 6d, water rates £5 5s, closing streets £5 15s 6d, gun and cleaner £5 12s 6d, tools 10s, bank charge 5s, transfer to district account £10 2s 6d. Brooklands income was: Rent £89 7s 6d, sale glass-house £12 10s, dividing fence £11. Expenditure was: Wages £738 4s 4d, maintenance £76 2s 7d, printing £2, insurance £2 15s 1d, plants £11 5s 5d, forest scheme £439 12s 5d, terraces £661 10s, tractor repairs £5 1s 4d, telephone £3 18s 9d, bank charge 5s.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES
SWAMP IN BROOKLANDS.

The superintendent reported that after careful investigation it was inadvisable to plant rhodos in the Swamp portion adjoining the Park Boundary and his suggestion that this particular area should be planted in ferns or such other plants that would be happy under these conditions was agreed to.

TH, APRIL 23, 1937

COLLAPSE IN PARK

DEATH OF MR. F. W. WHITAKER
WELL-KNOWN CONTRACTOR

Collapsing suddenly while working on the new bridge in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, Mr. F. W. Whitaker, the well-known New Plymouth contractor and builder, died from heart failure at 1.30 p.m. to-day. Dr. E. F. Fookes was summoned, but life was extinct.

Mr. Whitaker came to New Plymouth some years ago as manager of the construction firm of J. T. Julian Ltd. Later he set up in business on his own account and handled some large jobs in the district. He was responsible for some of the work at the Taranaki Rugby Union's new ground, Rugby Park, at Westown. At the time of his death Mr. Whitaker was engaged on the construction of the new bridge over the main lake at Pukekura Park, to replace the old Poet's Bridge.

He leaves a widow and two daughters, Misses I. and J. Whitaker, and a son, Mr. F. Whitaker, who is a well-known Rugby football player.

TH, MAY 28, 1937

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PUKEKURA PARK GATES.

The Pukekura Park committee formally approved the plan of the proposed memorial gates at the Fillis Street entrance to the park at a meeting last night. The committee reviewed the plan, drawn by Messrs. Griffiths and Syme, last week and reached the decision then, last night's action being to put the whole thing in order.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Brooklands Staff. It was resolved to terminate the employment of T. Boulton and R. Jordan.

MAY 31, 1937

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Present: J. McLeod (chair), C. E. Bellringer, H. Dempsey, F. Amooore, E. King, E. J. Carr, E. R. C. Gilmour, E. Jackson, F. S. Varnham, W. F. Short, F. Parker, P. E. Stainton (Secretary) and T. Horton (Superintendent).

The chairman advised that Mr. Boulton desired to meet the general committee and put a proposition to them, namely: - that he and Cleaver be allowed to carry on and if this was agreed to he felt sure that the cost of labour in maintaining Brooklands would not exceed £500 per annum.

After discussion it was resolved on the motion of Messrs. McLeod & King that:

The motion confirmed at the last meeting referring to the re-organisation of the staff at Brooklands be rescinded.

That R. Jordan's services be terminated.

That Mr. A. Cleaver be transferred from Pukekura Park to Brooklands.

That the Conservatory at Brooklands be closed and the plants transferred as directed by the superintendent and also that the Conservatory be dismantled.

That the flower beds on the main path at Brooklands be dispensed with and these areas be planted in grass.

TH, JUNE 8, 1937

APPROVAL GIVEN
PUKEKURA PARK GATES
CHARLES SANDERS MEMORIAL

Approval of the expenditure of £1500 from the Sanders bequest funds for the construction of striking memorial gates in cream Mt. Somers stone at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, was given by the

New Plymouth Borough Council last night. The Pukekura Park Committee will now proceed with the work.

Simple but impressive in their proportions and height, pylons at each side will be the principal feature of the gateway. They have a curved, fluted face towards the carriageway, but for the most part are of rectangular shape.

Memorial tablets will be placed on each column and inside will be ticket boxes with windows facing down Liardet Street. Adjoining the columns and in conformity with the design of the pylons will be square arches in which turnstiles will be placed. Continuing from these arches will be the walls, on the eastern side to replace the present tin fence, and on the western to meet the high bank which it is intended to clear and cut back neatly. The actual gates between the pylons will be of an attractive design in bronze.

The pylons, turnstile arches and walls all fit into a balanced and pleasing pattern which, in creamy Mt. Somers stone, will make the entrance worthy of the park. The new gates, providing an entrance 18 feet wide in comparison with the nine feet available at present, will eliminate the difficult exit for motor vehicles, which are now forced to turn sharply to negotiate the narrow opening.

The plans were prepared by Messrs. Griffiths and Syme.

TH, AUGUST 11, 1937

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Satisfaction with recent work done at Pukekura Park and Brooklands, New Plymouth, particularly extensive tree-planting, was expressed by members at last night's meeting or the Pukekura Park Committee. The Hon. James McLeod presided and there were also present Messrs. E. R. C. Gilmour, F. Amooore, E. Jackson, F. S. Varnham, E. King, F. Parker, W. F. Short. C. E. Bellringer, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent).

The superintendent reported that hedges and useless shrubs at Brooklands had been removed and the ground was now ready for sowing as extra lawns. The corner section in Gilbert Street had been cleared up and hedges planted and the fernery had had its annual overhaul. The seepage from the high ground at the back of the sportsground had got in behind some of the new earthwork and a slip had come down. The earthwork had been rebuilt more solidly and no further trouble was anticipated.

Sixty school pupils had visited the park for horticultural instruction. Mr. Horton showed them recent planting and addressed them on native trees and their cultivation.

The lake had been practically empty all the winter, but a start had been made to fill it again and by the weekend should be back to its normal level. The boating steps had been strengthened by concrete blocks. The planting of 150 pohutukawa trees at the Ngamotu reserve had just been completed.

EXTENSIVE PLANTING.

Extensive tree-planting, had been carried out during the season. This included 160 Lawsoniana. At

Brooklands 250 macrocarpas had been planted to protect the native bush in the gully running towards Avenue Road corner and Upjohn Street.

At the back of the old orchard site at Brooklands 550 pinus radiata had been planted behind the old pine plantation.

Native timber trees to the number of 360 had been planted in extension of the forest area at Brooklands and 40 white pines had been put in the swamp ground near the rhododendrons.

Around the lake and in other parts of Pukekura Park 165 tree ferns had been put in, and 650 native trees were planted in the new botanic reserve at Fillis Street.

This made a total of 2175 trees planted.

The shelter trees supplied from the borough nursery were a very fine type and well grown.

He had left 28 trees to be planted in the forest area to mark Arbor Day.

Board members pointed out that the large amount of planting done during the season was in keeping with the spirit of Arbor Day. It was decided that each member of the committee should plant a tree some time during the day.

Appreciation of the generosity of the Bruce Trust in making possible the Native forest plantation was expressed, and it was decided to erect a notice board in recognition of this. At present there are about 3500 trees in the plantation, including 330 kauris.

KING'S LAKE.

The chairman raised the question of attention to King's Lake, which he described as becoming an eyesore. Unless it was cleaned out it was going to revert to a swamp area.

Mr. Stainton pointed out that four of the New Plymouth Borough Council's quota of subsidised unemployed men were to be available for the park. They could be used by the committee for four months at an expenditure of 8s a man a week.

Mr. Horton said that he had the necessary plant. The banks and two or three small islands could easily be cleared, but the lake proper was a bigger job. The trouble was not mud and clay but rushes, which could be grubbed or dug out.

It was decided to apply to the borough council for the use of four men for this purpose.

An offer was received from the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club to pay £10 towards the erection of a shed near the sportsground for the use of club members. It was decided to reply that no funds were available for this purpose, but that if the club desired to erect a shed the committee would co-operate by providing a site.

Authority to proceed with the construction of the Sanders Memorial entrance gates to Pukekura Park and to utilise £1500 from the Sanders bequest for this purpose was received from the New Plymouth Borough Council.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

RE MOTOR MOWER. It was resolved that the purchase of a green motor mower through the local agent Messrs. W. W. Thompson and Son at £128 for 24in. Mower be agreed to and the completion of the purchase and the

question trading in the old motor mower left in the hands of Messrs. McLeod and Jackson with power to act.

NORTHER ADVOCATE AUGUST 18, 1937 KAURIS GROWING AT NEW PLYMOUTH.

Some day, it appears as if Northland will no longer be an exclusive area of kauri trees judging by the numbers which are being planted in southern districts. The commonly held belief that kauris will not grow south of Auckland is disproved by the success, after a year in the ground, of 350 of these trees, planted by the Pukekura Park committee in its native forest plantation on the hillside near the entrance to Brooklands, New Plymouth. All save three or four of the trees have survived the effects of the winter and have rooted themselves strongly in the soil. There has been little growth above ground so far but a few weeks of the present sunny weather is calculated to bring the trees away quickly. Provision has been made for the replacement of the failures. The strong healthy appearance of the young trees has dispelled any fears that the plantation will not be a success. Kauris planted in Pukekura Park have shown a growth of 2ft. 6 in. a year, according to Mr. T. Horton, parks superintendent.

TH, SEPTEMBER 15, 1937 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The annual overhaul of the sportsground was undertaken during the month, reported Mr. T. Horton, park superintendent, to the Pukekura Park Committee last night. There were present Messrs. F. Amoree (acting chairman), W. F. Short, E. King, F. Parker, E. Jackson, C. E. Bellringer and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

The report continued that practice wickets were prepared, top-dressing was done and seed sown where necessary. The centre wickets were not yet finished, the staff still awaiting the arrival of soil to be supplied by the cricket association. Four men at Brooklands lake were getting on well with the work of removing the giant rushes. The new system of working Brooklands appeared to be satisfactory, two men doing the work well.

Mr. C. E. Bellringer was congratulated for twenty-one continuous years' service on the Board and Committee.

NZ HERALD, SEPTEMBER 20, 1937 TH, OCTOBER 13, 1937 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING THE POET'S BRIDGE

T O B U I L D E R S .

Tenders are invited until Noon on THURSDAY, October 7, 1937, for Reinforced Concrete and Stone

MEMORIAL ENTRANCE
To
PUKEKURA PARK, NEW PLYMOUTH.

Plans and specifications may be obtained from
GRIFFITHS AND SYME,
B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., F. A.N.Z.I.A.,
Regd. Architects and Structural Engineers,
New Plymouth.

QUESTION OF COLOUR HARMONISING RESULT DESIRED ADVICE TO BE SOUGHT

Although at first glance the question of the colour scheme for the painting of the new Poet's bridge across the main lake in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, may seem a small affair, it is really one to which careful consideration has been given.

The subject was before the Pukekura Park Committee at its meeting yesterday when it was referred to the chairman, the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C., and Mr. C. E. Bellringer, with power to act. The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that the bridge was nearing completion and the question of the colour for the paint work required to be decided.

Members agreed that the colour of the old bridge was very conventional and it was thought that for the finishing of the new bridge something more in keeping with the surroundings should be aimed at. The colour of the tea-house may have some bearing on the position and it should be remembered that the picturesque appearance of the bridge is gained more from a distant view than at close quarters.

Perhaps opinions will vary as to what colour the structure should be painted, as the appeal to the eye differs according to a sense of colour and to the idea of appropriateness in such a setting. The artist element in the community may have ideas on such a subject that would be helpful, while some of the people who most frequently visit the park may have views that would be worth consideration by the committee.

Whether an invitation to the public to submit suggestions would give a guide to the committee, or whether, indeed any suggestions would be made, is doubtful in view of the fact that no response was received when the committee invited suggestions for designs for the memorial entrance gates to the park. However, the sub-committee that is charged with the responsibility, of deciding the matter would no doubt consider any helpful suggestions that may be made.

MEMORIAL ENTRANCE PUKEKURA PARK GATES ALTERNATIVE SCHEME TENDER ACCEPTED

The impossibility of obtaining satisfactory quotations for the supply of Mount Somers stone for the memorial entrance gates at Pukekura Park made tendering by contractors for the work very difficult and although four tenders were received by the Park Committee at its meeting yesterday the prices were altogether beyond the finances of the committee and an alternative scheme, suggested by the architects, Messrs. Griffiths and Syme, for the construction of the gates and wall in concrete, with a cement plaster finish pointed to resemble stone courses, was approved.

Alternative tenders for this work were also received and submitted to the committee and the lowest tender of Messrs. Boon Bros., New Plymouth, for £1575 was, subject to the approval of the

New Plymouth Borough Council, accepted.

UNSATISFACTORY.

In reporting this situation to the committee the architects stated that the tenders were disappointing and unsatisfactory, and then the explanation in respect to the supplies of Mount Somers stone was given. If the work was to be done in stone an entirely new design would have to be made. Other stone than that from Mt. Somers, obtainable in New Zealand, was considered unsuitable for this district, and the cost of imported stone would make the price of the work prohibitive.

They therefore suggested the construction of the work in what was called waterproof stone with a tinted plaster finish, marked out and pointed to resemble stone. For this they had obtained from the original tenderers alternative tenders and between that of Boon Bros. and the highest tender received there was a difference of nearly £300. The tenderers were three New Plymouth firms and one Christchurch firm.

SHOULD BE IN STONE.

Mr. W. F. Short emphasised that it would be a pity to erect a memorial in anything but stone and he expressed the opinion that the use of concrete would not make the job as permanent and it would never give the appearance nor satisfaction that stone would. He suggested that the design could be amended and the height of the gates reduced and other amendments made

proposed by the architects. Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour pointed out that the gates at the Boys' High School were not of stone and they were standing up in appearance to weather conditions, and appeared to be lasting well.

LOOK AHEAD.

Mr. Short said it was necessary to look a long way ahead, and they should visualise something that would practically be everlasting.

It was subsequently resolved to approve the alternative scheme submitted by the architects and that subject to the approval or the Borough Council the architects be instructed to proceed with accepting the tender of Boon Bros.

Mr. Short recorded his protest against the work being done in any material other than stone.

In an explanation given to a representative of the Taranaki Herald afterwards, the architects stated that every care would be taken with the work to ensure that a durable finish was obtained. The wall, when built, would be allowed to dry thoroughly before the finishing coat of cement plaster was applied. This would be made of a new cement now being manufactured in New Zealand, which would be "waterproofed" by machinery to make it durable and ensure also that the finishing coat and colouring would dry out and have an even appearance which would be lasting. To obtain this result the colouring pigment is ground into the mixture by machinery. During the

change being in the material to be used in the construction of the work.

The alternative tenders included £400 to cover the cost of the double gates, turnstiles, tablets and inscription. However, separate prices were being obtained and, with gates in wrought iron, turnstile, tablets and lettering in bronze, it was thought this amount could be reduced by £100.

Messrs. J. McLeod and C. E. Bellringer were appointed a sub-committee to consider a suitable form of inscription for the tablet and to submit a proposal to the committee for approval.

TH, NOVEMBER 6, 1937

The work of erecting the Sanders Memorial gates to Pukekura Park at the Liardet Street entrance is expected to commence next week. The contract will take about three months to complete.

TH, NOVEMBER 10, 1937 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The colour of the new Poet's Bridge was discussed at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee in New Plymouth last night. The chairman, the Hon. J. McLeod, M.L.C., said the colour had been praised by visitors.

Members of the committee stated that they had noticed that parts of the bridge had not been painted, but Mr. C. Clarke, borough engineer, explained that the steelwork under the decking had been bitumenised instead. The approaches to the bridge have yet to be completed by day labour.

The interior of the ladies rest house, most of the seats about the rotunda and tea house, and the boats had been painted, reported the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. The picnic tables and seats under the pergola had also been overhauled. With the removal of the plant of the contractor for the new bridge, the road, which was badly cut up by the heavy lorries carting the bridge material, had been re-formed and metalled. The tradesmen's drive leading up to the tea house was being re-formed.

Water had been laid on to the south terraces in the hope of reviving the grass on the newly formed terraces at the top of the hill but the water pressure was so poor that the superintendent did not expect much success.

The Newton King lake had been thoroughly cleaned out and the water dammed up again. The sports ground was in good order, the fernery receipts were being maintained, and everything at Brooklands was going well.

The disposal of the old main entrance gates is to be considered by sub-committee, who will report, at the next committee meeting.

Messrs. E. R. C. Gilmour and P. E. Stainton were given power to make arrangements for improvements to the water system at the women's rest rooms.



Memorial Gates sketch presented to the Pukekura Park Committee (Puke Ariki ARC2011-083)

that would reduce the cost and still permit the committee to adhere to the use of stone.

Other members emphasised that the tenders for stone were altogether beyond the committee's financial resources and they saw little objection to the scheme

finishing stage the work will be specially protected to ensure an even drying out by retarding the process by protecting the work from undue moisture and draughts.

There will be no change in the design adopted by the committee, the only

1938

Planting of the forest extension area was continued in July and August of 1938. Between this and the 1937 plantings Horton added in total another 1570 trees, comprising: 150 Kauri, 100 Rimu, 25 Hinau, 100 Rewarewa, 25 Pukatea, 200 Pohutukawa, 100 Maire, 50 Tanekaha, 100 White Pine, 150 Totara, 500 kowhai, 20 Puriri, 50 Lawsoniana.

This brought the total number of trees planted to 3815, comprising: 500 Kauri; 50 Titoki; 50 Taraire; 200 Rimu; 50 Hinau; 25 Porokaiwhiri (pigeonwood); 125 Rewarewa; 50 Pukatea; 50 Mangaeho; 400 Pohutukawa; 200 Ngaio; 100 Red Beech; 50 Silver Beech; 125 Maire; 10 Toru; 100 Tanekaha; 300 White Pine; 100 Matai; 300 Totara; 50 Tawapou; 700 Kowhai; 30 Puriri; 25 Towhai; 150 Lawsoniana; 75 Thuja plicata (western redcedar).

Thomas Horton was aware that the popularity of the fernery had a lot to do with the flowers on display, not just the ferns. Unfortunately, the conditions inside the fernery were not suited to the growth of begonias which were the big attraction and so he promoted the idea of relocating the grape house from Brooklands. This was done at a cost of about £150 which came from the Sanders bequest and was carried out by Messrs. Cook and Son. Over the course of one weekend members of his staff worked tirelessly to dig the tunnel connecting the new begonia house to the north-west fernery house.

In his diary Thomas Horton recorded measuring the kauri tree near the boatshed bridge. "Height 50 ft. Circumference 4ft from the ground 41 ½ in. Diameter 14 inches. Tree planted 1913. Average yearly growth 2ft. 400 feet of good timber in tree."

The old main gates at Fillis Street removed when the Sanders gates were erected dated back to 1885. They were a gift from Mr. George Rhind an engineer who worked on the harbour development. By 1890 it became necessary to re-hang the gates and Mr. Robert Hughes senior took it upon himself to organise this and from that point they were affectionately called the Hughes gates. Following the removal of the gates in 1938 the committee received a letter from Mr. Len Hughes asking if possible that the iron gates removed from Liardet St. entrance could be erected at the Victoria Road. Entrance, this was agreed to.

Thomas Horton and George Huthnance suffered severe irritation when removing *Rhus verniciflua* from flower beds in front of the fernery, the irritation so bad that Huthnance was off work for several days.

Tom Boulton who had worked at Brooklands for Newton King as his head gardener for decades and kept on when Brooklands became part of the park was let go. It was felt that he could no longer handle the heavy work required to maintain Brooklands.



Native Timber Forest (Kauri Grove) that Thomas Horton planted 1936 -1938



Sanders Gates almost complete. *Auckland Weekly News*, July 27, 1938



Wood Chopping Competition. *Auckland Weekly News*, April 27, 1938

TH, JANUARY 28, 1938

**MR. HORTON HONOURED
HORTICULTURAL AWARD
HONORARY FELLOWSHIP**

The election of an honorary fellow and an honorary member was completed at the annual conference of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture to-day. The honorary New Zealand fellow is Mr. Thomas Horton, Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, and the overseas member is Sir William Wright Smith, Edinburgh.

Mr. T. H. Horton.

Mr. Horton has been engaged in horticulture since 1881. He introduced Delicious and Senator apples, in addition to other strains. He has been superintendent at Pukekura Park and Brooklands Park and has established a sanctuary for New Zealand ferns as well as an arboretum for New Zealand trees. He holds the diploma of the Royal Horticultural Society and has won many gold medals in first class competition.

TH, FEBRUARY 9, 1938

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Pleasure at the appearance of Pukekura Park and Brooklands was expressed by members at a meeting of the Pukekura Park committee last night. Present were: The Hon. J. McLeod, M.L.C. (chairman), and Messrs. F. Amoore, E. Jackson, E. King, C. E. Bellringer, F. Parker, and P. E. Stainton (honorary secretary).

No major planting or development works were in hand at this time of the year reported the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. Owing to a phenomenal growth of grass and weeds and the smallness of the staff it was difficult to keep ahead of the work, but the park generally was in very fair condition. The sports grounds and terraces were never better and visitors had expressed appreciation of the ferneries and flower beds.

At Brooklands the lawns were in splendid condition, but paddocks and the plantation area to the south were neglected as was the bush gully running back to Upjohn Street. He felt that an increase in the staff was necessary.

Messrs. McLeod, Bellringer and Amoore were appointed a sub-committee to go into the question of staffing and the possibility of an increase.

Permission was granted the North Taranaki Primary Schools Sports Association to hold the annual sports meeting on the park sportsground on Friday, March 11.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Memorial Gates.

It was resolved that the following inscription should be put on these gates.

**PUKEKURA PARK MEMORIAL
GATES 1938**

Perpetuating the memory and the valuable benefactions to this Park by Charles Score Sanders Esq.

TH, MARCH 30, 1938

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

A storm of protest was raised at the meeting of the Pukekura Park

Committee last night when a proposal was put forward to close the park during the present winter season. No such action is to be taken, but it was decided to proceed with a scheme to improve the playing surface without interfering with sport.

The cricket pitches played well throughout the season and he had been complimented in this connection, reported Mr. T. Horton, superintendent. Unfortunately grass sown last spring which was really good during the earlier part of the season had now practically disappeared. The cricket wicket square was now being dug over and would be resown before Easter. This would not interfere with any functions to be held on the ground. As soon as the Twenty Thousand Club sports meeting was over he proposed thoroughly discing, harrowing and re-sowing the balance of the ground. With favourable conditions the whole playing area would be much improved by next season, conditional on the ground not being used by the end of July or early in August.

OBJECTION RAISED.

As a member of the sportsground committee Mr. F. Jackson objected to tactics which had been used. He said that with the consent of his co-members he had decided to top-dress the field and had ordered fertilisers for this purpose. However the order had been countermanded by the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, and the manures had not been delivered. What were the functions of the committee if it were not even permitted to do such work, he asked.

It would be wrong to close the ground during the winter, said Mr. Jackson. Hockey, soccer, League and Rugby all had the right to the use of the ground and it would be disgraceful to take this right from them.

Complete agreement was expressed by Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour. Closing the sportsground at such a time was wrong. These sports had a right to the use of the park and it would be a wrong principal to close the park during the winter. With good manuring the grass would come back alright.

Opposition to closing the ground was also expressed by Mr. W. F. Short.

"All lawns and grass grounds look bad at this time of the year, but they recover," commented Mr. F. Parker.

RE-SOWING NECESSARY.

Mr. Horton said that the position was very different to what it had been for some years past. There was a great deal of dead grass and the live grass was very thin. Re-sowing was necessary and to get the soil into proper condition would require harrowing and discing. He mentioned that this action was being taken at the New Plymouth High School where cricket was the only sport played on the ground.

Mr. C. E. Bellringer said it was obvious that something had to be done, but at least 12 months' notice would have to be given. Sports bodies had made their arrangements and it would not be fair to upset them.

A deputation from the Taranaki Rugby League was then heard. The spokesman,

Mr. A. Adam, said that Mr. Stainton had informed them that it was proposed to close the ground for three months. This alarmed them and he was pleased to be told the scheme had been rejected. On behalf of the league he applied for the use of the ground during the season a rental of £50.

It was stated that this application would have to be referred to the sportsground committee.

TH, APRIL 27, 1938

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
WORK DURING YEAR**

The work done at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, during the past year was reviewed by the chairman, the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C., at a meeting of the Pukekura Park committee yesterday. In addition to Mr. McLeod there were also present: Messrs. F. Amoore, E. Jackson, E. King, H. Dempsey, W. F. Short, F. Parker, E. R. C. Gilmour, F. S. Varnham, C. E. Bellringer and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

Despite the extra labour involved owing to the season's abnormal growth, the work of maintenance had been satisfactorily attended to and lawns, ferneries, flower-beds, playing areas, terraces and miles of pedestrian and bush paths had throughout the year been kept in a condition giving evidence of continuous supervision and care. The committee was fortunate in possessing the staff, from superintendent to general labourer, which without exception took pride in its work and in the appearance of the park.

The committee was required by the borough council to keep within an expenditure of £1400, but had found it impossible to keep the cost of maintenance and ordinary renewals below £2000, despite rigid budgeting, so that the committee had to find £600 from its own resources. During the year £742 had been earned from revenue, made up as follows: Sportsground rent, tea rooms and sundries, £214 18s 2d; house rent, £81; fernery, £310; boats, £96 14s; sundries, £32. The apparent surplus of £142 was used in painting the Brooklands and park residences at a cost of £77, purchasing a motor mower for Brooklands at a cost of £129 and extending the water supply at a cost of £32. The last two items being regarded as capital expenditure and being the property of the borough council, the cost was set off against a bookkeeping debt of £139 12s. The motor mower at Brooklands decreased the necessity for casual labour, but the benefit was felt only in the last few months of the year. The sum of £136 11s 8d was paid for casual labour in both Pukekura Park and Brooklands and a non-recurring item of £24 8s 6d was the committee's contribution to the subsidised work in clearing the Brooklands lake. With a continued close supervision over general expenditure, it should be possible to increase efficiency by employing younger and experienced horticulturalists and dispensing with casual labour almost entirely.

Mr. McLeod acknowledged on behalf of the committee the sympathetic reception the various proposals and essential wants had received from the works committee of the borough council and the late engineer. It was fitting, too, to acknowledge that the long view policy being followed for some years past was largely due to the expert advice and enthusiasm of the superintendent, Mr. Horton, whose wide range of knowledge and experience was highly appreciated by horticulturists and botanists everywhere.

In conclusion he thanked his colleagues, and particularly the secretary, for the time and thought they had devoted to the work of the committee during the year and to the Press.

EXTENDED FERNERY BEGONIAS AND ORCHIDS USE OF OLD GRAPE HOUSE

The ferneries at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, are justly famed for their beauty and uniqueness and annually attract thousands of visitors.

A proposal is now afoot to extend the existing facilities by the construction of an extra unit to be used mainly for the display of begonias and orchids.

A proposal to this effect was contained in the annual report of the chairman, the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C., to yesterday's meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee. A brief but enlightening discussion revealed that members supported the suggestion very strongly, and a special committee was set up to go into the details of the proposal and bring down a report to the committee.

The main attraction at the parks, stated Mr. McLeod's report, was probably the ferneries, which were visited by thousands annually, and it was fitting that the young man in charge under the superintendent should have his specialised work acknowledged. To further popularise this feature of Pukekura it was suggested that during the coming year the committee consider the advisability of removing the disused grape house at Brooklands and make an extension to the ferneries unit, mainly for the display of begonias and orchids.

VALUABLE ADDITION.

The proposal actually came from the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. said Mr. McLeod. His own opinion was that such an addition to the existing fernery buildings would be a very valuable added attraction. He commended it to members of the committee for full consideration.

Mr. F. Amooore said that another dug-out could be made to the left or the present building. Only the glass-work of the grape house would be needed. He thought it was a scheme worthy or consideration.

Mr. Horton said that the roof of the present fernery was not watertight, as was needed for begonias. If the extra building were not provided for the flowers the existing roof would have to be made waterproof. He pointed out that 12,400 people paid to get into the ferneries last year. He was of the opinion

that half of these were attracted by flowers there.

Mr. F. Parker said that the ferneries never had been suitable for begonias. He was of the opinion that a splendid and suitable building could be erected adjoining the fernery from the Brooklands grape house, and that this would be a valuable addition.

Messrs. W. F. Short, Parker and Amooore, together with the superintendent were appointed to go into the matter fully and bring down a detailed report on the proposal to the next meeting of the committee.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

It was agreed to dispense with the services of T. Boulton.

TH, APRIL 28, 1938 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

There were present at the meeting the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C., (chairman), Messrs. F. Amooore, C. E. Bellringer, E. King, W. F. Short, E. R. C. Gilmour, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent).

Mr. T. Boulton submitted his resignation which was accepted by the committee.

Mr. Horton advised he had received applications for the positions of park staff from Mr. Frank Parker and G. H. Huthnance.

Bruce Trust. An application was received for the use of Mr. Horton's services to report on some of the plantations near Hunterville and it was resolved that the Committee gladly accepts the opportunity of being of some service to the Bruce Trust and as some small appreciation of the assistance they had given the committee, and Mr. Horton make himself available to suit the requirements of the Bruce Trustees.

TH, MAY 11, 1938 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING SPORTGROUND IMPROVEMENT COMPLETION IN SPRING

His suggested scheme of work for the improvement of the sportsground had been carried out in a modified form and could be completed in the spring, reported Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, to last night's meeting of the park committee. The grass seed had come up well and was making good growth, he added.

There were present at the meeting the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C., (chairman), Messrs. F. Amooore, E. Jackson, C. E. Bellringer, E. King, W. F. Short, F. Parker and T. Horton (superintendent).

Gorse, broom and fern had been grubbed from the banks of the Brooklands drive and the banks had been cleaned up, continued Mr. Horton. The buttresses and wing rails on the approaches of the new Poet's Bridge were being painted.

As the rustic timber of the Vogeltown entrance was in a dilapidated condition the structure was being dismantled and a new punga structure being erected.

Authority for the removal of three acacia trees near the flower beds near the fernery was granted. Mr. Horton stated

that the roots of the trees were ruining quite a large portion of the lawn and flower bed.

The sub-committee's appointment of Messrs. F. Parker and G. Huthnance to the staff, their duties to be in both the park and Brooklands and their appointment to date from June 1, was confirmed.

It was decided to close the fernery at noon on Saturdays during the winter.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Victoria Road Entrance.

It was reported by the superintendent that the old gates from Liardet St., were to be erected at the Victoria Rd., entrance as soon as the Engineer's Dept., had men available.

TH, JUNE 15, 1938 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING USE OF SPORTSGROUND PUKEKURA PARK AFFAIRS REMOVAL OF CONSERVATORY

The allotment of the Pukekura Park ground to sports bodies in New Plymouth at 15 per cent of the gate takings and a minimum of £12 10s a Saturday was announced by the sportsground committee at a meeting of the Park Board last night. The Taranaki Rugby league offered a minimum of £12 10s a Saturday, said the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, and the ground was offered to other sports bodies at the same figure. The hockey and Association football officials did not accept the offer and the league were given the ground for three Saturdays out of four and the Rugby Union for the fourth Saturday.

The removing of the conservatory in Brooklands Park to a site near the Pukekura fernery was discussed. It was stated in the report of the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, that the high fence enclosing the fernery had been extended to provide room for the conservatory if it was shifted. It was decided to obtain the approval of the Borough Council for transferring the conservatory at a cost of about £150.

The superintendent reported that the old woodwork at the Victoria Road entrance had become dilapidated and was taken down, being replaced by a strong punga railing and bold gateway which should be durable and a great improvement on the old structure. Pine branches overhanging the wires in Victoria Road and at the corner of Brooklands Road were removed. The gorse and fern on the bank and roadside to Brooklands were grubbed and burned. The rough areas of the park were being cleaned up. The forest extension work was being pushed on and the area would shortly be ready for planting. He proposed re-forming the John Street walk and other paths which had become slippery. As opportunity offered they would be remetalled. The two new men on the staff were very satisfactory.

Mr. F. Amooore presided and also present were Messrs. E. Jackson, Eliot King, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker, E. J. Carr and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

TH, JULY 13, 1938
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
"NOT PLAYING FAIR"
USE OF SPORTSGROUND
CHARGE AGAINST RUGBY UNION
PUKEKURA PARK POSITION

"The Rugby Union are not playing fair. They should be asked to fulfil their contract," declared Mr. E. Jackson when a letter was received at last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park committee from the Taranaki Rugby Union advising that the use of the sportsground was no longer needed.

There were present at the meeting: Messrs. F. Amooore (in the chair), E. R. C. Gilmour, E. Jackson, F. S. Varnham, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent).

The Old Boys and Star football teams were using the ground for practice, continued Mr. Jackson, and the ground had been worn bare where they had been scrummaging. Though they paid 2s 6d a time for that and the Union paid £12 10s a year for the use of the ground, it still meant a loss to the committee.

The meeting then went into committee on the matter and when the open meeting resumed no resolution was passed.

The re-forming and metalling of the John Street walk was reported by the superintendent. Mr. T. Horton. The work on the forest scheme extension was well advanced and the ground would soon be ready for planting.

ACACIAS CUT OUT.

The acacias in front of the fernery had been cut out as authorised. The hydrangeas had been pruned, the branches and pungas contacting with electric light lines had been cut away, the pergola in front of the dressing shed had been re-constructed, and all essential and urgent work had been done.

As instructed, he had proceeded to Hunterville and in company with the two trustees of the Bruce Trust had inspected their reserves.

A special sub-committee was authorised to draw up specifications and call for tenders for the removal of the begonia house at Brooklands to a site adjoining the Pukekura Park fernery, with power to act.

The superintendent was given permission to meet and give advice to the acting-committee of the Paritutu Centennial Park.

Mr. F. S. Varnham was elected chairman in succession to the Hon. James McLeod M.L.C.

The treasurer reported a credit balance of £122 2s 6d.

AUCKLAND STAR, AUGUST 3, 1938
DANGER OF RHUS TREES.

The danger of the poisonous rhus tree has been demonstrated in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. Mr. T. Horton, the superintendent, and Mr. G. Huthnance, an employee, while removing a rhus tree recently suffered severe skin poisoning. Mr. Horton yesterday for the first time had relief from the pain of the poisoning, but Mr. Huthnance is still in bed

receiving daily medical attention. Irritation on various parts of the body was the first sign of the poisoning. The trouble rapidly spread. Mr. Horton, who has been conversant with the properties of poisonous trees for over 40 years, stated that all of the prescriptions he had tried had only temporarily relieved the severe irritation. "I have come to the conclusion that it is not right for any nurseryman to grow and distribute these poisonous species," said Mr. Horton. He pointed out that people bought them because of their attractive autumn foliage, but they were not conversant with the danger they presented. He had known people to plant some of the best of the foliage varieties near bedroom or dining room windows to admire their beauty. They had later been poisoned, but had been at a loss to account for the cause. Regarding the danger of poisoning from certain trees, said Mr. Horton, the planting season was here and he advised people planting ornamental trees to leave alone all varieties of the rhus family with the exception of the rhus continus. They should never plant ampelopsis toxicodendron, commonly known as hoggii. The tree they removed from Pukekura Park would never have been planted there had it not been donated by some person who considered the colourful, foliage would add to the beauty of the park.

TH, AUGUST 10, 1938
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
TREE PLANTING
EXTENSION AREA WORK

The digging for tree planting in the forest extension area near Brooklands Road was now completed, stated the superintendent, Mr. T. H. Horton. in his report to the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board last night. The trees were now, being planted, stated Mr. Horton, and he expected to complete the work this week.

The new list of trees being planted would include 180 more kauri trees. Fences were no longer required for protection purposes, and these were now being taken down and all good posts, battens and wire carefully stored.

Reference was made in the report to the valuable services of Mr. A. Dent, who had been employed in the park for the past two years and had now been appointed caretaker of Burgess Park. It was decided at the meeting to write to Mr. Dent, thanking him for his services and wishing him success in his new position.

Mr. Horton stated that at the request of the Eltham Borough Council he had visited Eltham on a recent Saturday afternoon and given advice on the preliminary work and levelling of a new sportsground near the school.

The chairman stated that as soon as the specifications, which were in the hands of Mr. F. Amooore, were completed, tenders would be called for the removal of the glass-house in Brooklands to a site adjoining the fernery in Pukekura Park.

There were present at the meeting Messrs. F. S. Varnham (chairman). E.

King, E. J. Carr and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

The committee was advised that the Council had approved monies from the Sanders Bequest to be used for the relocation of the Brooklands begonia house, estimated to be between £120 and £150.

TH, SEPTEMBER 14, 1938
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

There had never been such a good sole of grass on the sports ground at this period of the year, said the superintendent of Pukekura Park, Mr. T. Horton, in his report to the committee last night. The advantage of the autumn scarifying and seed sowing on the sports ground, although only in a modified form, had never been better demonstrated than this spring, he stated.

There were present at the meeting Messrs. F. S. Varnham (chairman), F. Amooore, C. E. Bellringer, F. Short, E. King, E. R. C. Gilmour, F. Parker, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent).

With so much seasonal work to be attended to after being somewhat delayed by the very severe winter, the past month had been a very busy one for the staff, continued Mr. Horton.

Planting for the present season had been completed.

Black soil procured from the borough council had been used for top-dressing the running and cycle track. More would be received for the top-dressing of the centre area of the sports ground as soon as football was finished.

Boundary fences had been repaired where most essential, ditches had been cleaned out and water channels opened up, and all the most important general maintenance work attended to.

He regretted to report that the member of the staff with rhus poisoning on July 21 had not yet returned to duty. He was, however, much improved and hoped to make a start again any day.

The superintendent was given authority to cut some small native growth in the newly-planted forest area at Brooklands. The trees, he stated, were very diseased and the disease was spreading to the young trees recently planted.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Begonia House. Mr. F. Amooore advised that specifications had been drawn up for the erection of a new begonia house adjoining the present fernery, such material as is satisfactory to be used from the Begonia House at present at Brooklands. It is expected to be in a position for work to commence within the next two weeks.

OCTOBER 10, 1938
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

There were present at the meeting Messrs. F. S. Varnham (chairman), F. Amooore, J. McLeod, E. J. Carr, E. Jackson, C. E. Bellringer, E. King, F. Parker, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent).

Re Glass-House. It was resolved that the contractors, Messrs. Cook & Son, be written to asking them to do what is possible to expedite the erection of the new begonia house.

Re Victoria Road gates. A letter was received from Mr. Len Hughes asking if possible that the iron gates removed from Liardet St., entrance should be erected at the Victoria Road., entrance. The secretary that he had replied indicating that it was the committee's intention to carry out the work at the earliest possible time.

TH, NOVEMBER 9, 1938

**GROWTH AT PEAK
FINE BEECH AT BROOKLANDS
RAIN SPOILS BLOOMS**

Although the recent wet weather has spoilt a great many of the best blooms at Pukekura Park, the park has now entirely lost its winter appearance.

All deciduous trees are now in full foliage and everywhere else the trees and plants are in full growth, which will continue for two or three months yet.

The recent heavy rain has had its effect on the paths on the slopes of the park, which have been almost denuded of their covering of shingle. This morning, however, they were being repaired wherever necessary and it is expected that there will in future be no danger of slipping on the main paths. The small and less frequented paths, however, are not metalled.

STILL FINE SIGHT.

The Rhododendron Dell is still a very fine sight, although a great many varieties have finished flowering. Both the azaleas and the wistaria, a few weeks ago blooming in all their glory, have now gone off.

The planting of annuals is progressing. It hoped to have all the beds planted within a fortnight and a bigger display than ever before is planned.



View of the fernery begonia house, with top propagating house alongside. The begonia house, formerly a grape house was moved in 1938. The propagating house was formerly a conservatory and moved in 1939. (Puke Ariki ARC2011-029)

Undoubtedly the outstanding feature at Brooklands just now is the great copper beech, which in the magnificence of its full foliage is worth travelling far to see.

The site of the old begonia house, which has been dismantled and re-erected in Pukekura Park, is now being dug up and prepared for flower beds. The beds will be planted in a few days. Ultimately it is intended to sow the site in grass, making it an extension of the lawns.

The brood of nine grey ducklings, among the most successful raised at the park, are now practically half-grown. Some ten days ago they left the small ponds by the fernery, where they were hatched, and now live on the upper lake. They are still remarkably tame and come to the back door of the tea house to feed from the hands of members of the staff.

TH, DECEMBER 12, 1938

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

There were present at the meeting Messrs. F. S. Varnham (chairman), F. Amooore, E. J. Carr, E. Jackson, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton (superintendent).

Superintendents Report. This was read, discussed, and received.

Reference was made in the superintendent's report to the excellent work done by the staff in working through the week-end to complete the necessary tunnel to connect up the new begonia house and the fernery and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded them for this work and the interest displayed by them.



Inside the grape house before it was moved from Brooklands to Pukekura Park to become a begonia house. (private collection, Adrienne Tatham)

1939

New Plymouth was approaching its centennial celebration in 1941 and to commemorate this it was decided to develop a reserve encompassing 80 acres on what is now Centennial Drive in the vicinity of Paritutu Rock. Thomas Horton was asked to design and oversee the development and was released from park duties for 2 days a week for several months.

The Park Tennis and Croquet Club was advised that within five or six years they would have to relocate so a shelter belt could be planted. It was felt that the rapid decline of the pine trees on the western hillside below the tennis courts would soon create a problem leaving that side of the park exposed.

Another glasshouse was moved from Brooklands to the fernery site and used as a propagating house.

Thomas Horton in his diary on September 4, noted, "WAR DECLARED last night."

Ivan Waddle who was running the fernery in 1939 had joined the park in 1934 as Horton's apprentice, was called up for active duty at the outbreak of WWII, also, Committee chairman, Lieutenant Colonel F. S. Varnham who had served in WWI was called up and deployed to Egypt.

Miss Evelyn Lawson was first female staff member at the park. She started on a casual basis to help in the fernery, then when Ivan Waddle went off to war Miss Lawson's position became a permanent one.



View of Clifton Rowing Clubs 1938 New Zealand Championship-winning coxed four rowing on the Main Lake at Pukekura Park. The team is made up of G. Fowler, B. Old, F. Olsson G. Topless and M. Crow (coxswain). (Puke Arika SW1938.0590)



New Sanders Gates - *Auckland Weekly News*, May 24, 1939

TH, FEBRUARY 22, 1939
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PARK FIGURES INCREASE.

An increase of £82 in the fernery and boat receipts from December 20 to February 15 was reported by Mr. T. H. Horton, park superintendent, to the Pukekura Park Committee last night. This year's figure was £306 compared with £224 for the same period last year. The increase was at the fernery where 3280 more people had paid for admission.

KIOSK BROKEN INTO.

The tea kiosk at Pukekura Park had been broken into twice recently, reported Mr. T. H. Horton, park superintendent, to the Pukekura Park committee last night. Windows had been broken and the bolts reached through the hole, he said. The matter was in the hands of the police. It was twelve months since the last arrest was made and there had been no trouble until recently.

TH, FEBRUARY 24, 1939

1000 CHILDREN
ATHLETIC SPORTS
PRIMARY SCHOOLS FIXTURE
SEVERAL RECORDS BROKEN

Over 1000 children, representing no less than 20 primary schools in and near New Plymouth, took part to-day in the eleventh annual athletic sports meeting of the North Taranaki Primary Schools' Sports Association on the Pukekura Park sportsground, New Plymouth.

The day was warm though sunless, and the ground was in fine condition for running. Particularly good organization resulted in between 150 and 200 events being run off during the day without hitch or any kind. The marshall and supervisor, Mr. A. K. Robertshaw, had the valuable assistance of radio amplifying equipment.

The day's events began shortly after 10 a.m., following the spectacular grand parade in which all the competitors took part, walking twice round the ground in groups according to schools, each school-group preceded by two standard-bearers.

During the morning no less than four records were shattered in the boys' championship events, in addition two boys' championship records and one girls' championship record were equalled.

TH, FEBRUARY 24, 1939

ON PARK LAKE
CHAMPION CLIFTON ROWERS
FITNESS WEEK DEMONSTRATION

The appearance of the Clifton rowing crew on the lake of Pukekura Park will be spectacular feature or tomorrow's fitness week demonstrations in New Plymouth. The Clifton (Waitara) crew recently became twice champion four of the Dominion. It is believed that the crew's appearance on the lake will mark the first time that a racing boat has been seen on the lake.

The Clifton crew will not bring its own boat but will use one which will be the central feature of the New Plymouth

Rowing Club's float in the procession. It is considered that there is ample distance in the lake to enable the Clifton crew to stretch out in a full racing start. The appearance of the Clifton crew under such circumstances is likely to attract the attention of many people not hitherto interested in rowing, and for that reason the demonstration may be one of the most valuable features of the week.

The stroke of the crew is Mr. T. G. Fowler, probably known to most Taranaki people as a fine Rugby forward who has represented the North Island. Other members of the crew are Messrs. B. Old, Olsson and Topless, with M. Crowe as coxswain. The coach, who has played a big part in Clifton's success, is Mr. G. Marshall.

Clifton has established a remarkable record in the last two seasons since the crew discovered that it had ability at the New Plymouth regatta on New Year's Day, 1938. Clifton entered that day in the minor open event without being particularly optimistic, but to the members' gratification they beat a strong Union crew. Since then they have not been beaten and have won most of the important events open to them, slashing victories at Hamilton in both seasons leading up to decisive victories in the New Zealand championships.

TH, MARCH 15, 1939
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
SWANS FOR LAKES
GIFTS TO PUKEKURA PARK
DESTROYING WEEDS

The gift of six swans for the lakes of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, five black swans and one white swan, was reported to the park committee last night by the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. The swans are doing valuable work in destroying weeds.

The white swan sent by Mr. Tristram, of Eltham, had come safely to hand and had been put on the lower lake, stated Mr. Horton. The old swan that had been on the main lake had been put with it and the pair were doing excellent work in cleaning up the water weed.

He had that day received five black swans, the gift of Mr. L. R. Hamilton, of Manutahi. One pair had been liberated on the lower lake and the other three on the main lake.

Since the last committee meeting the staff had been fully engaged in the work of general maintenance and the scheme 13 men had been employed at work on the forest extension area.

The grass on the terraces had again been cut, long grass had been mowed where necessary and repairs made some of the small bridges.

To the application of the New Plymouth Athletic Club for the use of the sportsground on the afternoon of March 25, the secretary reported having replied that the ground had already been let for that afternoon but would be available in the evening.

The New Plymouth Fire Brigade applied for the use of the sportsground on Easter Monday. The secretary reported that he had informed the brigade of the prior

reservation by the Taranaki Cricket Association for the visit of an Auckland team.

A financial statement submitted by the secretary showed that the committee would finish the year with a small credit balance, but with the New Plymouth Borough Council account for tar-sealing work at the main entrance unpaid.

TH, MARCH 15, 1939
DAMAGE AT PARK
BOATS SET ADRIFT
SHED BROKEN INTO

Boats and equipment at Pukekura Park were damaged last night when the boatshed was broken into and the boats turned out on to the lake. The act was committed between 7.30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The park supervisor, Mr. T. H. Horton, was the first to discover the occurrence when at 9 o'clock he discovered the boats adrift on the lake. Further investigation showed that the locks on both the boatshed door and gates had been removed, and an oar was missing and another broken. Damage was also done to the boats.

It is also suspected that the staff house was broken into although this cannot be proved. Among other material on the lake was found a spare oar which was stated definitely to have been stored in the house. The staff house was found to be in order and the means by which access was gained is a mystery.

TH, APRIL 12, 1939
GREEN AND GOLD
AUTUMN IN THE PARK

Green and gold are the predominant colours in Pukekura Park and Brooklands, New Plymouth, at the present time the green of evergreen trees and the gold of the falling leaves of deciduous trees. Autumn has brought a great change in the appearance of the bush-covered park.

Foliage is colouring fast everywhere and leaves are dropping. Some trees have entirely shed their leafy cloaks and their limbs are now gaunt and bare. Native trees and evergreens predominate in the park but the striking colours of the foliage of the deciduous trees draw attention to their autumn show before they resign themselves to the cold winter months. The tall slim poplars are ahead of others in the transformation and most of them are now almost bare. The catalpa is a ball of gold, the Japanese flowering cherry trees around the upper lake and dotted about the park are turning all shades of brown and yellow, and the Oriental plane trees, the Japanese maples, the oaks, sycamores, elms and chestnuts are all among the deciduous trees whose strikingly-coloured foliage helps to make up Nature's autumn show.

FALLING LEAVES.

Beneath the trees is a bed of golden brown leaves. The park staff, anxious to keep the park in its customary spick and span appearance, rake up the fallen leaves that carpet the paths, but they have scarcely finished when another covering has fallen.

The leaves are carted away and dumped into large where they decompose and become valuable manure to be used later in the flower beds.

The flowers in the beds about the park are finishing fast and this month should see the end of their colourful show, except for the tall cannas, which stay longer than most and may bloom until the middle of the winter unless heavy frosts come to cut them back. Next month the flower beds will be prepared for the spring planting.

Autumn always brings much special work at the park. For many days past the staff have been carting soil to top-dress parts of the sportsground. The centre wicket and practice wickets have been top-dressed and resown. The work was finished yesterday and it is hoped to have everything well advanced before football begins. In preparation for Anzac Day, less than a week away, when the terraces will be packed with people for the parade and remembrance service, a member of the park staff has been overhauling the terrace seats and putting them in order.

At Brooklands hundreds of bulbs are being planted in groups under the trees and round the neat lawns.

TH, APRIL 12, 1939
STREAM OF VISITORS
PUKEKURA PARK
A RECORD EASTER
FERNERY VERY POPULAR

Evidence of the great popularity this Easter of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, which has been visited by a constant stream of people from far and near, is to be found in the fact that during the four days from Friday to Monday the total number of visitors to the fernery passed the existing record total by no less than 52 per cent.

Two factors are considered to have played an important part in the great popularity of the park this Easter, a popularity in which Brooklands has also had its share, firstly the perfect weather, and secondly, the recent addition to the fernery of a begonia house, which is the equal, if not the superior, of any of its kind in the Dominion.

"In spite of the dry weather the park is looking as well as it ever does at Easter," said Mr. Thomas Horton superintendent of the park and Brooklands in an interview to-day. "Yes, the park has been a gay scene this Easter."

"The autumn effect has been evident during Easter," he said. "Flowers have been ripening off, blooms have begun to diminish and plants are turning brown. Flowers in the flower beds and most of the outside flowering trees show signs of coming to a finish in about a month's time. Considering the dry weather they have lasted very well and have shown very satisfactorily he said.

MORE AND MORE VISITORS.

In the four days of this Easter 1386 people have visited the fernery. Last Easter the total was 913, which is 473 less. The fernery's popularity has

progressively grown since its institution and every Easter has set a new record in the number of visitors. In 1937 the total was 882 and in 1936 it was 687. In three years the Easter total has more than doubled.

"Fortunately the begonia house has had a very satisfactory display for the holiday period," said Mr. Horton, "and it will at least to the end of this month.

"The appreciation people have expressed has been surprising. Not one of the visitors with whom I came into conversation expressed himself as disappointed in the slightest in any way, either with Pukekura Park or Brooklands, or with the town in general. Some who had never been here before had no idea that New Plymouth was the beauty spot it is."

Two visitors from the far north had, on the advice of friends in the south, called at New Plymouth on their way home after touring extensively in the South Island, said Mr. Horton. They said that Pukekura Park made them stay two days in New Plymouth instead of one day. Mr. Horton quoted them as saying: "In the south there is grandeur; here there is beauty."

TH, MAY 10, 1939
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
EXCEPTIONAL YEAR
PUKEKURA PARK POPULAR
COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL MEETING

An exceptional year for Pukekura Park in regard to the number of visitors was reviewed by the chairman of the park committee, Mr. F. S. Varnham, at the annual meeting last night. Pukekura Park and Brooklands were in splendid order and they were credit to the superintendent, he said in his report.

The fernery had grown in popularity and the attraction had been increased by the addition of a begonia house in June. The committee agreed to the erection of a small glasshouse for the propagation of plants for the begonia house. During the year £426 10s was collected in entrance fees at the fernery. The Sanders memorial gates were completed during the year, providing an imposing entrance.

The policy set out by the committee some years ago of the preservation of all native trees and plants was continued and when any further planting was being done preference would be given to New Zealand flora. A progressive policy of native tree planting was continued. At Brooklands 4700 native trees were planted.

During the year Mr. T. Boulton resigned after being associated with Brooklands for a period of 40 years.

The citizens of New Plymouth appreciated to the full the work of Mr. Horton in connection with Pukekura Park and Brooklands. In addition his knowledge and advice had been sought in connection with outside reserves and parks, including Wanganui. The time was not far distant when it might be to the advantage of New Plymouth to

utilise his valuable services as town parks superintendent.

The chairman concluded his report with thanks to the superintendent for his work, to the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, and the committee.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The balance-sheet showed an expenditure of £2637 14s 6d and receipts of £2638 14 7d leaving a profit of £1 1s on the year's work.

The services of Mr. Horton in connection with the construction of the Paritutu Centennial Park were granted. In view of the big call on Mr. Horton's time it was decided to request the Borough Council for extra labour at the park if such became necessary. It was pointed out that for the next three months Mr. Horton would be occupied for two days a week in connection with preliminary work at the centennial park. Mr. Horton's sketch plan and details of the various areas or the reserve were completed and had given the centennial committee every satisfaction.

MAINTENANCE WORK.

Mr. Horton stated in his monthly report that the staff had been mainly engaged in general maintenance work. Some oaks and sycamores which had been partially obstructing the mountain view had been topped. Practically all the trees planted to protect the bush at Brooklands were doing very well and the block of about 500 macrocarpa trees was making remarkable growth, many trees being 20 to 25 feet in height. The swans had cleared out practically all the water weeds in the lakes. As soon as the cricket and athletic sports season finished the ground was harrowed, top-dressed and seed was sown on all worn parts. The whole area in the sports ground had had a dressing of manure. The new grass had come up well, the old was responding to the treatment and the grounds would be in good order for the football season by Saturday, May 20.

Thanks were due to the Taranaki Jockey Club for the use of their distributor for manuring the sports ground.

The small glasshouse from Brooklands had been shifted and was now on the fernery site ready to be re-erected. The concrete foundations were already completed.

The fernery had evidently lost none of its attractiveness, the patronage during Easter being a record. Details of the attendance and takings during Easter periods are: 1936, 896, £22 8s; 1937, 1309, £32 14s 6d; 1938, 1152, £28 16s; 1939, 1920, £48 13s. Since the end of last December tickets sold up to the present amounted to 12,500.

Messrs. P. S. Varnham, E. Jackson, E. R. C. Gilmour and P. E. Stainton (secretary) were re-elected to comprise the sportsground committee.

There were present Messrs. F. S. Varnham (chairman), E. King, E. Jackson, W. F. Short, F. Parker, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (park supervisor).

TH, JUNE 14, 1939
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
CORROSION OF MAIN GATES

A report on the corrosion of the new main gate at the Liardet Street entrance to Pukekura Park was submitted to the park committee at their meeting last night and they were advised that steps were to be taken to remedy the matter.

The area around the tea kiosk had been re-formed, graded and metalled and a great improvement on the old flat surface had been effected, reported the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. The pohutukawa tree inside the main gates had been pruned back at the board's request. Ki-kuyu grass was being planted on the southern terraces. A large acacia tree that was growing high on the bank near the glow-worm caves had been blown down and was cut up and removed. A considerable amount of growth on the temporary trees had been interfering with the development of the permanent trees up the John Street walk and this had been cut off and rubbishy growth removed.

Work on the reconstruction of the propagating house was well advanced and the house should be ready in a few days.

A considerable amount of time had been taken up in drawing up specifications for the growing of the right class of tree for street planting and a list of suitable varieties and the streets in which it was suggested planting might be done. That work was being done for the committee set up to report to the Borough Council on the beautifying of the town.

The park and Brooklands were looking particularly well for this time of the year and the staff was efficient and satisfactory, the report concluded.

During the period under review receipts were £354 13s and payments £352 18s 6d, stated the financial statement, the credit balance at April 30, £1 0s 1d, being increased to £3 4s 7d.

There were present at the meeting: Mr. F. S. Varnham (chairman), the Mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, Messrs. F. Amoore, E. Jackson, E. King, F. Parker, W. F. Short, C. E. Bellringer and T. Horton (parks superintendent).

TH, JULY 11, 1939
BROOKLANDS ENTRANCE
WIDENING OF ROADWAY
FOOTPATH BEING BUILT

Preparatory work for the building of a tar-sealed roadway giving entrance to Brooklands is going ahead at present. New Plymouth Borough Council employees are widening the present roadway to 20 feet and constructing a six-foot-wide footpath with a concrete kerbing on the outside of the road.

The work should take about two weeks of fine weather to finish, but longer if wet weather causes interruptions. The footpath will be formed and the roadway widened and surfaced with metal right from Brooklands Road to the top of the hill. In addition the sharp corner near the

foot of the hill is being put back a little and the bank is being trimmed up.

Sealing of the roadway will not be done at this stage. The work will be allowed to consolidate, and the surface will be sealed next summer.

TH, JULY 27, 1939
CLUB TO MOVE
PARK TENNIS COURTS
LAND WANTED FOR TREES
URGENT NEED FOR SHELTER

Because the present site is required for tree-planting, which is stated to be urgently necessary to shelter the park from west and south-west winds, the Pukekura Park Tennis and Croquet Club, New Plymouth, will be required to move to a new site in the Brooklands area within the next five or six years.

In his report to a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last May the superintendent Mr. T. Horton, stated that careful examination of the trees growing on the western slopes of the park between the upper lake and the tennis courts revealed that most of the pine trees were rapidly coming to the end of their usefulness as shelter from the west and south-west winds and storms. Two or three of the trees were quite dead and might collapse at any time. The life of the best of them would be 20 years at the most, stated Mr. Horton, but majority of them would die out long before that. When this happened the whole of the central area of the park would be exposed to the west and south-west winds.

The only way to deal effectively with the matter was to resume possession of the tennis club site, which would be planted with trees suitable to give the necessary shelter by the time the pines had outlived their usefulness, the report continued. Although he disliked having to recommend such an action he felt that it was the only possible way to save the park from what would be little short of disaster, stated Mr. Horton.

NEGOTIATIONS OUTLINED.

At a meeting the park committee last night, the chairman, Mr. F. S. Varnham, reported on the negotiation of the sub-committee with the tennis and croquet club representatives.

The question of the shelter giving out and of the necessity of taking over the ground to plant it in trees was explained to them, said Mr. Varnham, and it came as rather a blow to the club. The proposal that club be moved to the site of the old orchard at Brooklands was put to them, and the plan for the proposed new site was submitted.

"The whole thing boils down to the cost of shifting the club," the chairman stated. "The club considers that it would cost about £1000 to move the club-house and lay new hard-courts. The park committee realise that we will have to help them raise funds over a number of years."

In the ensuing discussion last night members sympathised with the club's predicament and the hope was expressed

that assistance in the form of labour could be given. It was agreed that it would be ruinous to the club if they had to shift immediately and it was suggested that a period of five years be allowed. A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Varnham, F. Parker, W. F. Short, F. Amoore and the Hon. J. Mcleod was appointed to confer with the club with a view to beginning the preliminary work as soon as possible.

Mr. Horton pointed out that in the meantime trees could be planted in another place and transplanted in another five or six years' time when the ground now occupied by the club was available.

TH, AUGUST 9, 1939
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
MOVING SPORTS CLUBS
PLANTING FOR PROTECTION
RAISING OF TREES TO BEGIN

The Pukekura Park Committee last night took further preparatory steps in its five-year plan to move the Park Tennis and Croquet Clubs' pavilion and courts and greens from their site on the south-western boundary of the park to a new site at Brooklands and to plant the area with trees in order to "save the park from what would be little short of disaster."

The committee authorised the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to begin the work of raising sufficient trees to plant the south-western boundary area of the park when the shifting of the clubs has been completed in five years' time.

The land available at Brooklands was sufficient to provide for six tennis courts and three croquet lawns and, if necessary, room could be found for one more croquet lawn, said Mr. Horton in his report.

Since the last meeting he had measured up the land between the "Gables" and the meteorological station with a view to finding out what room there was for full-sized croquet greens.

A sketch plan of the courts had been given to the committee of the Park Tennis Club and a duplicate had been handed to the chairman of the committee.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Brooklands memorial Plaque. It was noted that a plaque to honour Newton King was ready to erect at Brooklands.

Swat Margret. A hearty vote of thanks was recorded Mr. Horton for the donation of a valuable Beech known by the name of "Swat Margret" a variety from Holland. This has been planted in the meadow at Brooklands.

TH, AUGUST 9, 1939
INFORMATION SOUGHT
BOTANICAL STUDENTS
PUKEKURA PARK POPULAR
"IMPORTANT PHASE OF WORK"

"Botanical and nature students are visiting Pukekura Park in increasing numbers seeking information and samples of native trees and plants and a good deal of time given to this work."

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of Pukekura Park and Brooklands, who made this statement in his report of the Pukekura Park Committee last night, enlarged on it in an interview this morning.

"I consider that a very important phase of our work here is giving this information to students, particularly young students, and as far as we are able it is our pleasure to do it," said Mr. Horton this morning.

For many years past university students from all over New Zealand had made visits to the park seeking information. Sometimes one or two might come along in one week; at other times there might be no seeker of information for a month.

TWO BIG PARTIES.

Last summer two parties of girl university students from the South Island, one of 18 girls and the other of 12 girls, had each spent a whole day in the park, he said. They had obtained numerous botanical specimens, ascertaining their correct names, and had gathered information that they had apparently not been able to get from their textbooks or their tutors.

However, the chief purpose of the day's visit or these two large parties had been to obtain a complete collection of New Zealand native ferns for pressing. They had been able to make this collection in six hours at the park, whereas to collect the ferns from their native habitat, some from the far north, some from the far south and others from hardly accessible mountain valleys, would have taken them a year or 18 months.

CENTENNIAL PROJECTS.

Recently, said Mr. Horton, visits by students such as these had been augmented by frequent visits from the pupils of New Plymouth schools, who were eagerly collecting information and specimens in connection with the school nature study projects for the Centennial Exhibition. For these young students samples of native plants and ferns were obtained and the names were written on tags attached to each plant. Information about each plant was also given.

Fortunately, he had on the staff Mr. George Huthnance, who held a diploma of horticulture and was consequently able to help him in satisfying the wants of the students, but he dealt with as many as possible himself.

Often on a Saturday a country school teacher who was teaching his pupils about these things, would come seeking information.

"It is our pleasure to assist as much as we can," said Mr. Horton.

TH, OCTOBER 11, 1939

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee was held last night. There were present: Messrs. J. Mcleod (acting-chairman), E. R. C. Gilmour, F. Amore, E. King, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (park superintendent).

Attention had been given to the sports ground, stated the report of the park

superintendent. The ground was in excellent condition for the athletic season. Flower beds were being prepared and planted and it was hoped to have a display of blooms equal to former years.

The four Scheme 13 men that had been working in the park for some time had been taken away for other work.

The application or the North Taranaki Cricket Association for use of the sports ground was granted.

An application from the Labour Day Sports committee for the use of the sports ground on Labour Day was granted.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Chairman, F. S. Varnham. A letter was received from the chairman applying for leave of absence on account of his having been called up for Military purposes.

Main Gate Plaque. It was the intention of the committee to erect a memorial plaque at the new Fillis St gates, to recognise past donors. It was ultimately decided that the only name would be that of Charles Score Sanders.

TH, OCTOBER 20, 1939

FAREWELL BY STAFF PUKEKURA PARK OFFICER IN CHARGE OF FERNERY

The Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, and all of the staff of Pukekura Park and Brooklands, including the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, gathered in the park tea kiosk on Wednesday afternoon, to farewell Mr. Ivan B. Waddle who has been in charge of the park's famous fernery and left yesterday for Trentham military camp.

Mr. Waddle began work on the park staff on September 1, 1934, as Mr. Horton's fernery assistant and for the last two years has been in full charge of the fernery.

Mr. Gilmour presided over the gathering in the absence in Wellington of the acting-chairman and secretary of the Pukekura Park committee, the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C., and Mr. P. E. Stainton. After afternoon tea Mr. Horton made Mr. Waddle a presentation on behalf of the park staff.

He had known Mr. Waddle since he was a small boy and had watched his career, said Mr. Gilmour. He was pleased to be able to vouch for the fact that anything that Mr. Waddle undertook he did successfully and well. That applied to his work in the fernery.

Horton spoke of the excellence of his work and wished him the very best of luck in the future. On behalf of the staff he presented Mr. Waddle with a pipe and several tins of tobacco.

In Mr. Waddle's absence Mr. Horton will take charge of the fernery and Mr. Waddle's fernery assistant during the past ten months will continue under Mr. Horton's direction with the assistance of other members of the staff as required. Mr. Waddle's position is being left open to him to carry on when he returns if he so wishes.

TH, OCTOBER 28, 1939

ENGLISH TREES CONTRAST OF GREENS FEATURE OF THE WEEK

Providing a contrast of light green against the darker shades of the native trees, the English trees massed at the south end of the upper lake at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, make a beautiful sight. At present they are breaking into foliage and are the "feature of the week" at the park.

The deciduous trees in the park, most of which are exotic, are now breaking into foliage and some varieties are in full bloom. In the latter class, the old horse chestnut, with flowers of both pink and white, is an attractive sight. Among the deciduous trees growing in the paddock on the way to Brooklands, are the English oak, the ash, sycamore elm, silver birch, limes and Oriental planes. Some of these hang low over the path and when their branches are fully covered, they provide welcome shade on a summer's day. But whether they are green or bare, these trees cannot fail to draw appreciative interest.

RHODODENDRONS.

The rhododendrons still present a magnificent display and will be in bloom for the next fortnight. The new dell known as Sanders Rhododendron. Dell, contains 250 varieties, including all the latest novelties. Quite a number are in full bloom and many will be coming out next week.

TH, OCTOBER 28, 1939

PARK IMPROVEMENTS ADDITIONAL LIGHTS PATH TO VOGELTOWN REWIRING BAND ROTUNDA

Hitherto lit by only one dim light, the path through pukekura Park to Vogelstown is to have four additional lights.

A convenient short cut, this track is a popular path, particularly as the grade is easier than the Victoria Street Hill. At night, however, except to those who know the path, it is difficult to follow.

The erection of these new lamps is part of the New Plymouth Borough Council's main street lighting system, estimated to take two years to complete. The lights, the ordinary street type, will be mounted on steel standards which are already there.

Several other electrical jobs are also to be done at the park. The band rotunda will be rewired for the coming season and a lamp on the path to the tea kiosk will be shifted clear of the trees.

The electrical engineer, Mr. W. H. Huggett, stated this morning that work will begin in about a fortnight.

TH, NOVEMBER 15, 1939

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING STAFF SHORTAGE

A staff shortage at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, has resulted in the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, being given authority to engage men as required. A motion to this effect was

carried at a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night.

As Mr. Ivan Waddle was away on leave, a rearrangement of the staff had been necessary, stated Mr. Horton in his report, and the fernery was under the charge of Mr. G. Huthnance. With Mr. Waddle absent, Mr. Huthnance in charge of the fernery, and Mr. L. Schonbachler indisposed, the park was at present short staffed. The only outside staff other than the two men at Brooklands comprised Mr. D. Parkin, on the sports ground, and Mr. Huthnance. Mr. Parkin was fully

occupied on the ground at this season of the year and periodically he required assistance, especially when the grass on the terraces required cutting.

There was a casual worker coming one day a week to assist in the usual week-end clean-up.

Members of the board expressed the opinion that the park could not afford to be short staffed, and permission was given Mr. Horton to engage employees as required.

He had interviewed the borough engineer, who had promised to have the gates at the Carrington Road entrance to the park erected before Christmas, continued Mr. Horton, in his report.

The lower footbridge near Victoria Road had been partly rebuilt as the old timbers had rotted and become dangerous.

Both Brooklands and Pukekura Park were looking remarkably well for the time of the year.



Charles Score Sanders memorial plaque. Main gate, Fillis Street. Photo A Metcalfe

1940

In a review of the plantings of the Brooklands forest reserve and the Fillis Street native botanical reserve, Horton said that at Brooklands, in an area of approximately 10 acres 3815 trees had been planted which included all the principal native trees, and at Fillis Street in an area of approximately 4 acres 1200 trees had been planted with over 200 varieties. Sadly, the Fillis Street reserve never reached its potential probably due to the lack of manpower during the wartime period.

Thomas Horton was appointed Superintendent of Reserves for the Borough. For some years he had been doing work outside the park for the Borough Council, such as the supervising of the Centennial Park reserve. Horton was still doing a lot of manual labour in the park, so the borough council gave the park committee an extra £150 to compensate for his time out of the park.

The old main gates at Fillis Street (dating back to the 1880s) that were removed when the Sanders Memorial gates were built were finally re-erected at the Victoria Road entrance.

A memorial plaque was erected at Brooklands to recognise the gift from Newton King.



Newton King Memorial Plaque in Brooklands
Photo A Metcalfe



Victoria Road entrance pre-1940
(Puke Ariki PHO222-0009)



Victoria Road entrance today
Photo. A Metcalfe

TH, JANUARY 10, 1940

FERNERY VISITORS.

That the ferneries at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, are attracting an increasing number of visitors is shown by the attendances since the New Year. These have averaged over 250 each day, ticket number 2000 having been issued yesterday afternoon. With such a splendid start, last year's record a total of 20,000 should be easily passed in 1940.

TH, JANUARY 23, 1940

**CHILD RESCUED
WOMAN'S BRAVE ACTION
NOT SWIMMER HERSELF**

"All I could think about was the child," Mrs. Dorothy Coombs, Avenue Road, New Plymouth, told a Daily News reporter in describing how she went to the rescue of

Eunice Mills, a child, three years old, who had fallen into the upper lake at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, yesterday.

Mrs. Coombs, who is an elderly woman, cannot swim and up till two years ago was subject to severe heart attacks, but she plunged into the water and held the child up until people on the bank could help them.

When rescued herself Mrs. Coombs was semi-conscious.

The accident occurred at the steps near the band rotunda. The little girl, who had been feeding the ducks, reached out suddenly for a piece of bread in the water and overbalanced. Mrs. Coombs saw her go under once and plunged in, forgetting about being unable to swim and about her heart. "I got hold of the child," she said, "and then could not feel her. I thought she would be drowned, but someone must have taken her from me. I could not get a footing on the bottom. The water was over my head. After I felt the child go, I could not remember anything."

It is understood from bystanders that Mrs. Coombs herself sank twice before being saved by the efforts of the boatman, Mr. Blackhall, and a one-armed man in the crowd who later took her home in his car.

The water by the steps is about six feet deep and the bottom is treacherous. The accident happened late in the afternoon.

Three hours later the child was none the worse for her experience, but Mrs. Coombs was suffering from shock and was in a weak condition.

Mrs. Coombs was minding the child whose mother, Mrs. A. Mills, Avenue Road, was out of town at the time.

TH, FEBRUARY 14, 1940

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Since the meeting last December, stated Mr. T. Horton in his report to the Pukekura Park committee at their meeting last night, the principal work of the staff had been the general maintenance of the grounds. To cope with the phenomenal growth of weeds and grass two casuals had been employed. All the grass on the hilltops and outlying areas of the park had been

cut, and it was hoped that the growth of grass in the new forest area would be cut this week.

Conditions on the sportsground had not been the best for cricket or sports, several meetings having to be postponed on account of the weather. At present it was a difficult matter to keep the grass cut. The topdressing had been deferred pending suitable weather conditions.

All essential work at Pukekura Park and Brooklands had been completed, and both parks were in good order. At present the water was being drained out of the lake at Brooklands, preparatory to the removal of rushes. The installation of new lights on the band rotunda and the Vogeltown walk fulfilled a long-felt want. The tea house badly required painting, and this work should be done before next winter.

The matter of painting the tea kiosk was left to Messrs. F. Amoore and the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, to seek tenders in March, so that the work would be done in the new financial year.

It was agreed that, considering the objects for which the junior division of the St. John Ambulance held a concert in Pukekura Park last Sunday evening, the committee should forgo collecting the usual 15 cent. of the takings.

TH, MARCH 13, 1940

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee was held last night. Those present were Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, E. Jackson, W. F. Short and E. J. Carr (secretary). Apologies for absence were received from the Hon. James McLeod and Messrs. H. Dempsey, E. King, P. E. Stainton, E. R. C. Gilmour and T. Horton, park superintendent.

Mr. Horton's report stated that in spite of the extraordinary bad weather, the grass was cut on the terraces and the sports ground was in excellent condition for all the centennial celebrations that took place. It had been found necessary to put a thin coating of shingle on all the dampest terraces and the paths leading to them.

Not much damage was done to the park by the recent deluge, stated the report. A few small slips came down, the most serious of which was on the sports ground. This would be removed and the damage repaired in the near future. Some flooding occurred in parts, but it was not of a serious nature.

Visits for horticultural instruction, principally on native trees, had been made by three classes from schools, under Messrs. Wagstaff and McCracken. The fernery attendance for the month was 900.

Permission was granted the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club to use the sportsground on the afternoon of March 30 for the purpose of holding the 1940 Taranaki cycling championships and athletic carnival. The club stated that they would like to donate 50 per cent. of the profits from this meeting to the Taranaki patriotic fund.

TH, APRIL 10, 1940

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The clearing away of a number of dangerous and protruding pine roots on some of the main paths had been removed and small slippery clay patches had been shingled, stated Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, in his report to the Pukekura Park Committee last night. The Brooklands lake was now ready and if extra labour were available the work of digging out the rushes could be proceeded with.

With the completion of athletics and cricket the sportsground was being top-dressed, portions resown and prepared for the football season. The takings from the boats had amounted to £131 18s which was about £2 less than last year. The falling off had been due to the wet weekends.

The statements of receipts and payments showed a credit balance of £2 8s 1d for the year's working. The receipts, including the borough subsidy of £1400, totalled £2769 11s 4d and the payments £2768 3s 3d.

At the request of the Airport Board the services of Mr. Horton were granted to advise on the planting of grounds at the airport.

TH, MAY 15, 1940

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
ANNUAL REPORT
REVIEW OF WORK**

The Pukekura Park Committee's annual report was presented to the committee last night by the acting-chairman, the Hon. J. McLeod, who presided.

"Work authorised and completed was the sealing of the main entrance drive and the parking area, removing of glass houses from Brooklands to the ferneries in Pukekura park, the reforming of Brooklands Road entrance and making of adjacent new footpaths and the planting of young trees on Cannon Hill to eventually fill the gaps of the existing immense pines now showing signs of decline," he said.

"In conformity with the committee's policy to close within the next few years the tennis courts and croquet lawns at the Vogeltown entrance in order to provide shelter from the westerlies, a special nursery of trees has been established. There trees will be grown in their present location and specially attended to for probably another four years before being planted out along the Brooklands Road western boundary of the park. This very essential shelter belt will quickly develop against the fast approaching time when the existing pinus insignia trees on the hillsides both east and west of the main lake, which now provide the shelter, will have to be removed. In connection with this work, the committee will soon require to give consideration to the preliminary work of preparing an area at Brooklands as a location for tennis and croquet courts to replace those to be closed.

"It was hoped to have erected during the year at the Carrington Road entrance to the park the gates that were removed from the main entrance, but the borough

engineer has up to now been unable to spare competent men for the work.

PRESSING WORK.

"The most pressing work requiring attention in the coming year is that of once again clearing the Brooklands lake of giant rushes and the clearing off of fern and gorse in the plantation surrounding the Brooklands bush. Neither work is possible within the committee's means and if it is not possible to have the assistance of No. 13 Scheme, or special assistance from the council, these very urgent works cannot be undertaken and will ultimately be very costly to deal with, and meantime convey an impression of neglect that is to be regretted.

"The matter of providing better sanitary arrangements in the parks has been brought to the notice of the Borough Council and it is sincerely to be hoped that the hopelessly inadequate, if almost insanitary provision now existing, may be remedied during the present year.

"The permanent bronze plaques at the park and Brooklands entrances commemorating the benefactions of the late Charles Score Sanders and the late Newton King have now been erected on the permanent locations and may provide the incentive for other public-spirited citizens to go and do likewise.

MEN ON SERVICE.

"During the year the chairman, Lieut., Colonel F. S. Varnham, who joined the First Echelon and is now in Egypt, was granted leave of absence for an indefinite term. Mr. I. Waddell, who has been in charge of the fernery, left to join up for overseas service and his position has been kept open for him."

The committee decided to apply for eight men under scheme 13B to clean Brooklands lake and also to clear fern and gorse from the plantation.

A deputation, comprising Messrs. R. Fulton and R. Lash, waited on the committee requesting a reduction in the rental charged the Taranaki Rugby League Centre for the use of Pukekura Park Sportsground. Their request was sympathetically considered and the matter was referred to the sports ground committee for its favourable consideration.

The park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, was granted leave to judge at the Manawatu A. and P. Society's Show.

BIGGER SUBSIDY WANTED STAFF AT MINIMUM DETERIORATION FEARED

The urgent necessity for a larger grant from the New Plymouth Borough Council towards the upkeep of Pukekura Park was stressed in the report of the Pukekura Park Committee presented to the annual meeting of the committee last night.

"The receipts and payments account shows that the committee has just managed to keep within the budget, but this was only possible by the exercise of continuous attention to expenditure and a 'cheese-paring' policy operated by the superintendent," the report stated. "If Pukekura Park and Brooklands are to be maintained in the condition which the

public expects, and the condition that makes them the magnet they are for thousands of visitors annually, it is imperative that more revenue be found. Prior to two years ago much valuable labour for improvements and maintenance was provided by the Employment Board, but this assistance is no longer available. Numerically, the staff is absolutely the minimum that can possibly keep Pukekura and Brooklands in passably good condition; indeed, even that could not be achieved were it not for the exceptional loyalty and goodwill of the staff whose pride in the parks inspires them to make its appearance equally a reward as pay envelope. In this connection the superintendent, in order to assist in keeping up the parks' appearance, is too often engaged on purely labourer's work and in night patrolling to guard against vandalism. This is not the wish of the committee, which feels that with the calls made on his time by the Borough Council and other public institutions, there is more than sufficient for him in organising and supervising work in Pukekura Park and Brooklands, without having to undertake a big share of the manual labour. Here again, unfortunately, it is question of finance, but it is nevertheless patent that unless the borough can see its way to increase the present subsidy by at least another £200 per annum evidences of deterioration will soon make themselves apparent.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

The total revenue of the committee was £2635 4s 5d and the expenditure £2632 16s 3d. The principal receipts were: Subsidies £1557 7s 5d, rents £256 6s 7d, fernery £477 1s 6d, boat hire £122 6s 6d, P. J. Flannagan bequest £43 19s 1d and transfer from Sanders bequest fund £150 7s 11d. The payments included capital expenditure £133 7s 11d on the new begonia house at the ferneries, and £137 8s on the new forest scheme and fencing at Brooklands. The main payments on account of general maintenance were: Salaries and wage £1938 0s 5d, general plant upkeep £193 1s 3d. The cost of insurance, plants and shrubs, superannuation, electricity, seeds, etc., tools, accounted for the balance. There was a credit balance of £306 15s 3d in the Sanders bequest fund. This magnificent bequest had already provided towards the cost of the splendid rhododendron gardens (£350), the new Poet's Bridge (£991), the memorial entrance gates and entrance fence (£1183), fernery houses extensions, as well as many other permanent improvements to the park, and its value was not yet exhausted.

VALUABLE RESERVES NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS NEW PLYMOUTH AREAS UNIQUE IN DOMINION

Two New Plymouth reserves that will not only add to the scenic attractions of the town but which will also be of the utmost value to students, the Fillis Street native botanical reserve and the Brooklands native forest reserve, were reviewed by the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night.

It is now five and four years respectively since these reserves were started. Both were recently completed. Particular reference was made by Mr. Horton to the Fillis Street reserve. It was difficult, he said, to estimate the educational value this reserve would have in future years, as it was the only reserve of its kind in New Zealand.

In his annual report the acting chairman, the Hon. James McLeod, stated that £1000 had been expended on the Brooklands reserve, financed by a £500 grant from the Bruce Trust and subsidised £ for £ by the Borough Council.

The following reports were submitted by Mr. Horton on the two reserves:—

FILLIS STREET BOTANICAL RESERVE.

"The planting of this reserve was started in 1935 and completed last Year. The area comprises approximately four acres and is set apart as a botanical reserve for native trees and plants. Here we have planted not less than two each of all native trees, but the collection does not include alpine, rockery and bay plants. There are about 1200 trees and over 200 varieties. These trees are doing well. Cultivation has now ceased. When these trees have sufficiently developed it is proposed to make suitable paths through them to give easy access to every part, and also to attach name plates to all the trees. It will be essential to provide a suitable entrance to the reserve from Fillis Street. These matters need not be done immediately, but must not be overlooked, probably the work should be done in about three years' time.

BROOKLANDS RESERVE:

"The area is approximately 10 acres. The total number of trees planted is 3815. The varieties include all the principal native timber trees. The matai are not doing as well as most of the other kinds. The totara, rimu, hinau, rewarewa and kauri are making particularly good growth and also the white pines planted in the swamp areas. In the first area planted the height of the trees ranges from three to nine feet, the average being about four feet six inches.

"It is definitely established that the kauri can be grown successfully here, for out of 500 in this reserve we have had scarcely a failure and though only planted three years ago many are six feet high and are very strong and healthy.

"Grass and weeds will grow abundantly and this will require scything about twice a year. The cost of this work and other essential maintenance will be approximately £75 per annum for the next three years, after which the cost of maintenance should be very light."

TH, MAY 15, 1940 SPRING FLOWER DISPLAY.

The flower beds at Brooklands, New Plymouth, have nearly all been replanted for the spring display, stated the monthly report of the Pukekura Park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to the park committee last night. Flower beds in the park will be prepared similarly now that the summer flowering season is

over. There are 26 new varieties of hydrangeas to plant.

TH, JULY 10, 1940

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

General maintenance and seasonal work, such as pruning and the cutting out of dead wood and clearing out drains, had comprised the principal work done during the month, reported the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at a meeting in New Plymouth last night of the Pukekura Park committee.

The digging of borders, preparations for spring planting and the re-turfing of bare patches on the terraces, etc., had also received attention, he reported.

The pavilion in the sports ground had been painted, and the playing area and terraces were in good order.

He had visited Paritutu centennial park and the airport at Bell Block and had reported to the borough council on schemes of lay-out and replanting. At the request of the council, he had also visited certain streets and reported on their suitability for street planting and the varieties of trees best suited to the purpose.

It was decided to relieve the Northern Division of the Taranaki Cricket Association of the necessity of paying a small amount representing a percentage on the gate on the second day of match with Auckland. It was pointed out the second day had shown a deficit.

Those present were Messrs. F. Amoore (chairman), P. E. Stainton, E. Jackson, W. F. Short, T. Horton and F. Parker.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Labour under Scheme B.13 The committee was advised that the Minister had approved of 4 men under the above scheme on a full subsidy basis for nine weeks.

Re Park Superintendent & Supt of Reserves for the Borough of New Plymouth.

The following resolution was received from the Town Clerk

"That in reply to the representations made by its Deputation to the Council the Pukekura Park Committee be informed that provided Mr. T. Horton's services are made available to the Council as and when required by it and provided that Mr. Horton is agreeable the Council is willing to appoint him Superintendent of Reserves for the Borough on conditions to be approved by the parties interested. Mr. Horton's salary and his duties at Pukekura Park to remain as at present but the Council in consideration of his services being so made available to it is willing to contribute £150 per annum to Pukekura Park in addition to the present subsidy".

AUGUST 13, 1940

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Those present were Messrs. James McLeod (chair), C. E. Bellringer, E. Jackson, W. F. Short, F. Amoore, F. Parker, E. J. Carr, E. King, P. E. Stainton (secretary), and T. Horton, park superintendent.

T. HORTON APPOINTMENT.

The Town Clerk submitted the conditions of the appointment of Mr. T. Horton as Superintendent of Reserves. The terms were discussed and agreed to, and the superintendent signed the agreement.

VICTORIA ROAD GATES.

The superintendent reported that he had finalized the arrangements with Mr. Jack Simmons to supervise the erection of the gates and he also advised that the work was about completed and was a really first-class job.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT.

The superintendent reported that the Eleagnus hedge on the western side of Brooklands entrance badly needed removing and it was interfering with the growth of other trees. He indicated that when this was cut out that it would leave a gap for the time being but he proposed to plant Lawsonianas that in a short time would fill the gap. It was resolved that the superintendent's recommendations be given effect to.

TH, AUGUST 14, 1940

VANDALISM AT PARK.

A further act of vandalism was discovered at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth this morning. One of the wooden doors which close the small aperture in one of the ticket-boxes at the main entrance gate had been broken by being forced in.

The door is a stout one made of Oregon pine and the pins which hold it in place at the top were snapped off.

TH, SEPTEMBER 11, 1940

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Over 1000 trees were planted at the Paritutu reserve during the month by the superintendent and one of the staff, stated the report of the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night.

The grass on the Pukekura Park sportsground was in splendid order and had never looked better at this time of the year. The kikuyu grass on the southern terrace had taken well. During the month gorse and blackberry had been cut and digging had been done around forest trees. The erection and painting of the Carrington Road gates had been completed and the boats had been painted. A new bridge was built over the stream in Brooklands bush.

In reply to a letter from the committee regarding boys riding bicycles on paths in the park, Mr. W. H. Moyes, headmaster of the New Plymouth Boys' High School, wrote to state that he was taking steps to see that the practice was discontinued.

TH, OCTOBER 2, 1940

PUKEKURA PARK SPORTSGROUND

It would be a reflection upon both borough and sports administrators if New Plymouth's finest, oldest and most central sportsground fell into desuetude and rank neglect. Yet that would appear to be its fate if the suggestion of the Pukekura Park committee that the North

Taranaki Cricket Association should go elsewhere during the season is adopted. Then it might happen that the citizens of New Plymouth, who own the park and the Sportsground, and the ratepayers, who pay for their upkeep, would witness the town's final indignity—the gentle grazing of sheep upon sward that for nearly 50 years has borne the weight of famous, and not so famous, players. And in spite of New Plymouth's pride in its open spaces and the obvious need for playing areas the town already has seen an example of sheep dispossessing players. But that it could happen at Pukekura Park!

The ratepayers of New Plymouth subsidise the Pukekura Park committee to an amount of £1550 a year and the committee also receives revenue from the fernery, hire of boats, rent of tea kiosk and rent of land used by the Pukekura Park Tennis and Croquet Club. And in the last cricket season it received £64 for the use of the Sportsground from the North Taranaki Cricket Association. On this basis it might well be asked if the park committee is holding a balance on behalf of ratepayers between the park as a garden and as a place of healthful sport and recreation. It is true that the big drop in winter receipts since the opening of Rugby Park has seriously curtailed sportsground revenue, but a sudden decision to ask cricketers to go elsewhere merely on the score of maintenance costs comes as a shock to far more than the cricketers affected. Even in the midst of war and its preoccupations the people of New Plymouth are likely to expect and to press for an arrangement that will prevent the Pukekura Park sportsground being closed to organised sport. While the town spends money on developing new parks and sportsgrounds it should be able to maintain the oldest and the best of all.

TH, NOVEMBER 13, 1940

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

TREE BLOWN DOWN

STORM DAMAGE IN PARK

One large pine tree had been blown down in Pukekura Park, stated Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of parks and reserves, when reporting on recent storm damage in the park at a meeting of the park committee last night.

A number of large pine limbs were blown down and the whole of the park was almost continuously smothered during the past month with broken branches, ponga fronds, pine needles and leaves.

Heavy rain on Labour Day made it impossible to hold the sports, the far side of the sportsground being under water, continued the report. The cricket season opened during the month and so far there had been no complaints. The arrangements made for the preparation of wickets seemed to be quite satisfactory.

The water had been let into the Brooklands lake, which was now full. Before the water was let in thousands of young seedling plants of rushes and small pieces of old roots that were

missed when the main job was done had been removed. The water lilies had not suffered and were now growing luxuriantly.

Wet weather had prevented the completion of the planting of annuals, but it was hoped to have these flower beds all planted within a few days.

The fernery attendance for the past month was 540.

The committee granted the Ngamotu beach committee the use of the park sportsground for the girls' marching contests on the afternoon and evening of December 28, and the Labour Day sports committee was given permission to hold the sports, postponed from Labour Day, on the King's Birthday holiday if it so desired.

**TH, DECEMBER 11, 1940
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

As a result of the heavy rain experienced in New Plymouth until three weeks ago the sportsground at Pukekura Park remained in a water-logged state longer than was usual.

A careful inspection of the pipe drains revealed no actual blockage in the pipe which might cause water on the sports ground, reported the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to the Pukekura Park Committee at its meeting last night. However, the water was not able to get into them and the joints had become sealed.

Several openings had since been made and gratings put in just below ground level and this had proved effective.

No further trouble should be experienced with surface water in that locality.

There had been a phenomenal grass growth on the terraces, which were being cut this week to have them in good condition for the holiday season.

Several gates had been painted. Brooklands was in good order and condition, the flower beds being all planted, and the plants doing well.

The extraordinary growth of grass among the trees in the forest area almost hid and in some cases smothered the trees but an effort would be made after Christmas to have it cut. The fernery and conservatory were in excellent order and the show of begonias was the best ever grown, at this time of the year. Admissions for the month were 441.



Parks Motors, Bus – Pukekura Park (Puke Ariki SW1938.0616)

1941

Staff levels were down to a minimum which was barely enough to keep up with general maintenance. The only new work was a new ponga gateway at the Kaimata Street entrance.

With a show of optimism, a V for victory sign was planted on the Fred Parker Lawn using red ivesine, with a background of bronze and yellow African marigolds.

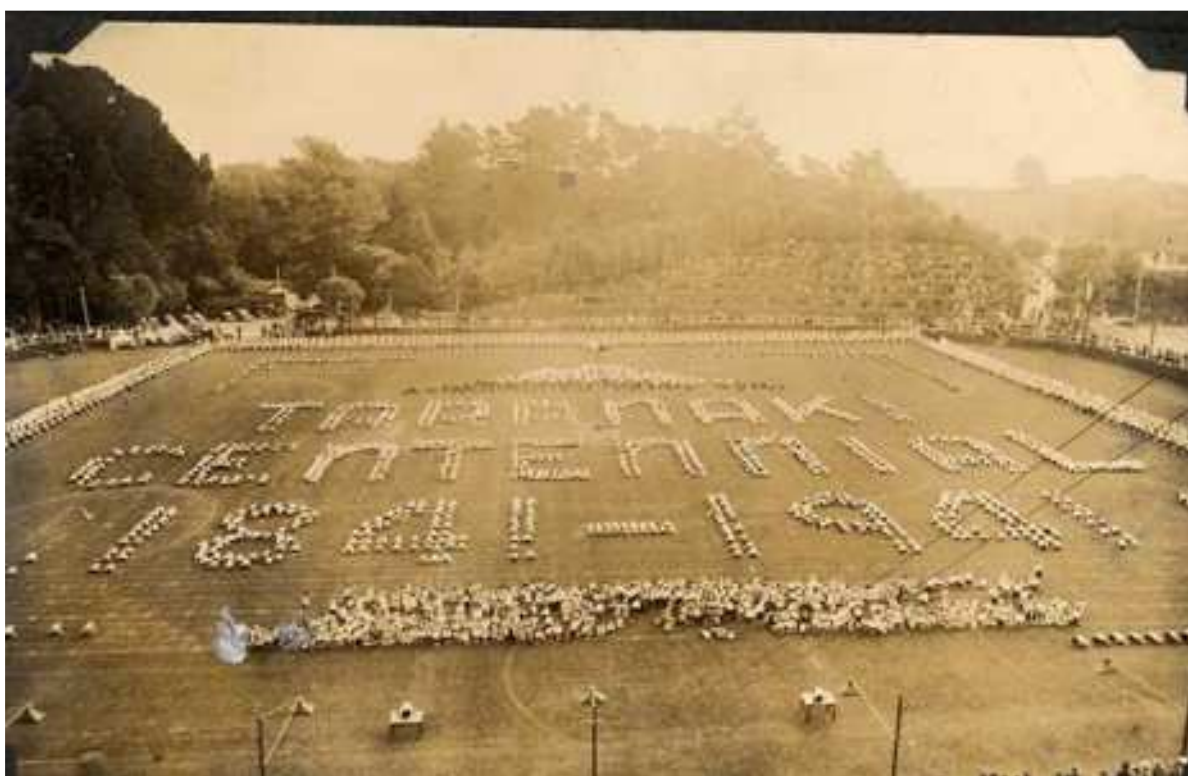
In 1941 the southern boundary of Brooklands was protected by a shelter belt of lawsoniana trees unfortunately, some of the trees had to be removed when a dip in the land was filled to facilitate the forming of Kaimata Street. About 2000 yards of soil was brought in.

To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov 16th, 1931, Mrs Burgess and her late husband had gifted the kiosk and all its contents to Pukekura Park. On what would have been their 60th wedding anniversary Mrs Burgess carried out her and her late husband's intention to renovate and replenish the contents of the kiosk. One year after the opening of the kiosk while visiting England with her husband Mrs Burgess had bought the new crockery. Since then, it had been stored in packing cases and moved from place to place. To mark the occasion Mrs Burgess was entertained by the Pukekura Park Committee with a morning tea at the kiosk. It was suggested that as a commemoration of the work of Mrs and the late Mr Burgess a picture of each of them be displayed in the kiosk.

The park staff joined a Borough Council Industrial Union. They came to an agreement which saw their working week reduced to 40 hours over 5.5 days.

L. W. Lovell joined the Committee. Mr Lovell was a councillor.

The park received a bequest from the estate of Mary Bingham for £250.



Centenary celebrations in New Plymouth. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections AWNS-19410409-27-1

The scene in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, when more than 3000 children of North Taranaki schools formed a picture of Mount Egmont and the Centennial words and date. Twenty primary schools and the two New Plymouth High Schools took part in the living tableau, which was preceded by displays of drill, marching, and dancing. The fixture was organised by the North Taranaki Primary School Sports Association, while Mr. G. Davey, headmaster of the Vogeltown School, arranged the tableau.

**TH, FEBRUARY 12, 1941
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
USE OF SPORTSGROUND
CENTENNIAL AND SPORTS**

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee was held last night, the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C., presiding. The principal business was the dealing with several applications for the use of the sportsground.

Permission was given for the use of the grounds by the Centennial Committee for a religious service for children on the morning of Sunday, March 30, and for children's sports on Wednesday, April 2, in connection with the centennial celebrations.

Permission was also granted to the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycle Club for the use of the sportsground for an electric light carnival on March 1.

In reply to the Taranaki Cricket Association, it was decided to accede to the request for the use of the sportsground for Saturday and Monday, March 29 and 31, on the usual terms for a representative cricket match between Taranaki and Wanganui.

**TH, MARCH 12, 1941
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PARK BOUNDARY
ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORK**

The Pukekura Park Committee met last night. In the absence of the chairman, the Hon. J. McLeod, M.L.C., Mr. W. F. Short was voted to the chair and there were present Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, F. Parker, and the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, and the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton.

In his report to the committee the superintendent said that in company with the borough engineer he had made an inspection of the back boundary of Brooklands, adjoining which a new street is being formed. A dip on the fence-line would require over 2000 yards of spoil to fill it up. This, he said, would necessitate destroying about half a dozen lawsoniana trees, but as others could be planted in the autumn the loss of shelter temporarily would not be serious.

Other work done in the park during the month was principally general maintenance.

DONATION TO PARK.

A donation of £5 5s from Mrs. A. Slinger, New Plymouth, to the funds of the park was reported by Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, and gratefully acknowledged by the Park Committee at its meeting last night.

FERNERY AND BOAT RECEIPTS.

Receipts from the fernery and the boats at Pukekura Park for the holiday period and up to Sunday last amounted to £290. The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, stated in his report to the Park Committee last night that this was £60 less than for the corresponding period of last year.

**TH, APRIL 9, 1941
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PARK DIFFICULTIES
DECLINE IN REVENUE
CURTAILMENT OF WORK**

The serious decline in Pukekura Park revenue, with a resultant delicate financial position, accentuated by increasing wages, has necessitated a curtailment of both improvement and maintenance work, according to a report submitted to the park committee last night by the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton.

Mr. Horton added that he had been concerned over the ability of the board to live within its income.

There was much work, some of it on improvements, which he would have liked to have carried out, continued Mr. Horton, but since this would have involved some expense, nothing beyond what was necessary was done. Timber was required for the repair of bridges, shingle was wanted for the paths, the boat house required overhauling and considerable painting work was necessary. The price of materials for these works had increased to such an extent, however, that he had not felt justified in carrying out the work.

Had the work been carried out in the face of all difficulties, the year's financial working would have shown a debit instead of the small credit returned.

Any suggestion that the park staff should be reduced in order to ease the board's position was opposed by Mr. Horton, who stated that the existing staff was an absolute minimum. Not one could be withdrawn without putting out of gear the whole scheme of economical management. The staff for the whole of the park and Brooklands was five men, besides himself, and one girl.

Next Season's Display,

Tulip, anemone and ranunculus bulbs for spring display had just been planted at Brooklands, reported the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to the Pukekura Park Committee last night.

**TH, MAY 14, 1941
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PARK FIRE DAMAGE
LOSS OF OVER £52**

The most important thing to report to the committee was the recent fire in the tractor shed in the park, said the superintendent, Mr. T. H. Horton, reporting to the Pukekura Park Committee last night. They had reason to believe the fire was caused by someone who broke into the shed with the object of stealing petrol.

The loss to the park committee in the fire was estimated at £52, plus the cost of repairs to the tractor and any repairs which might be necessary to the mower. Everything but the wheels, framework and body of the tractor was destroyed, but it had been thoroughly overhauled and was now apparently as good as ever. The shed was now being rebuilt.

Thanks were expressed to the superintendent of the New Plymouth Fire Brigade for his prompt action in

seeing that all parts of the machines were completely covered with oil while still hot.

While the tractor was out of commission the Anzac Day service, Air Force Band display and patriotic carnival were held in the park and as it was essential the grass should be cut, arrangements were made with the Taranaki Jockey Club to do the work with their plant. Their help was greatly appreciated.

Returns from the fernery last month were very good, 1659 tickets being sold and revenue amounting to £41 9s 6d.

Estimates were given by Mr. Horton of the cost of necessary repairs and maintenance work during the coming winter, and he was authorised to carry out the work.

The secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, reported that there was a credit of £12 16s 3d on the year's working and the annual statement would be submitted to the next meeting.

**TH, JULY 9, 1941
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
(AGM)**

PARK REVENUE

PUKEKURA SHOWS SMALL CREDIT

The monthly meeting and the annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee were held jointly in New Plymouth last night, Mr. F. Amoores presiding in the absence of the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C., chairman, because of indisposition.

The report and statement of accounts showed the committee had completed the year with a credit balance of £2 8s 2d. The chief items among the receipts were: Borough subsidy £1581 9s 10d, fernery £304 13s, boats £122 6s 6d, rents £243 15s 11d.

The drop in the fernery revenue for the year, said the report, amounted to £170, and this had to be offset by carrying forward necessary maintenance work on the buildings and seats. The expenditure amounted to £1961 0s 6d on salaries and wages and £213 7s 11d on general maintenance. The Sanders bequest fund stood at £384 4s 11d.

"The coming year will be one calling for constant and careful thought by all members of the committee," said the report, "as everything points to a substantial increase in expenditure with reduced revenue. It might be necessary to consider in conjunction with the council, whether the park and Brooklands can be maintained to the standard which the public expects, or whether the committee is to live within its means and allow the grounds to deteriorate."

Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Varnham, M.C., ED., of the N.Z.E.F., was elected chairman and Mr. Amoores acting-chairman. Messrs. E. Jackson, P. E. Stainton and H. V. McCready were appointed the committee's representatives on the sportsground committee.

Appreciation was recorded of the services of Mr. McLeod during his office as chairman of the committee.

WORK FOR THE MONTH.

The monthly report of the superintendent stated that the total cost of replacing the loss and damage caused by the destruction by fire of the implement shed was £93. The value of the machinery saved was £260. Mr. Horton said the prompt action of the superintendent of the fire brigade, Mr. L. Hartley in immediately placing the mowing machines in oil was responsible for preserving the temper of the steel and thus saving them.

Improvements had been made in the Sanders Memorial rhododendron dell by preventing the trees from becoming overcrowded. The trees showed promise of a good flowering season.

The timber for the repairs of bridges and seats and the shingle for paths had been delivered and repairs would be made as opportunity offered.

There were present at the meeting Mr. F. Amooore, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, Mayor, and Councillors L. W. Lovell and H. V. McCready. Messrs. E. Jackson, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, F. Parker and T. Horton. Mr. E. J. Carr acted as secretary in the absence of Mr. P. E. Stainton.

FERNERY VISITORS.

Visitors to the fernery at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, totalled 1205 for the months of May and June, compared with 1189 for the corresponding period of last year. In making this report to the committee last night the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, said two months' figures were included because there was no meeting of the committee last month.

TH, AUGUST 13, 1941

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

A short meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. The acting-chairman, Mr. F. Amooore, presided.

In a letter from the Social Security Department it was stated that the 100 per cent. subsidy provided for the employment of men could not be continued but a subsidy of £4 a week would be paid for four married men. It was decided that the acting-chairman should take the matter further with the department.

A debit of £268 4s 10d in the general account was reported in the financial statement. This was the lean time of the year and this would improve soon.

Painting of the sportsground wooden gates had been done, stated the report of the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. Ticket windows and doors to ticket offices had been included. The main iron gates would be painted. These had been repaired so that they shut easily. Obstructions had been removed from the drains and pine roots had removed from the path to Vogelstown.

Blackberry, gorse and other various growth had been removed at Brooklands. Extra work had been necessary at the reserves as the result of wind and rain.

THEFTS AT PARK.

A new lock and chain placed on the main gates at Pukekura Park had been stolen within a week, stated the report of the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to a

meeting of the Park Board last night. They had been replaced. New locks had been put on all gates at the park.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Re Estate Late Clara, Emily, Mary Bingham. A letter was received from the Public Trust advising that a legacy of £250: had been left to the Pukekura Park Committee, absolutely, from the above named.

TH, SEPTEMBER 10, 1941

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee, New Plymouth, was held last night. Mr. F. Amooore presided and there were also present Messrs. W. F. Short, F. Parker, L. W. Lovell, H. V. McCready, T. Horton (superintendent) and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

The superintendent stated that little work of a special nature had been undertaken during the month, most of what was done being seasonal and repairs to paths and fences. He suggested certain improvements at the Kaimata Street entrance to Brooklands by removing the present gate and erecting a ponga-work gateway. The storm during the past week-end did no serious damage, but caused a large amount of cleaning-up work. Visitors to the fernery for the month numbered 445, compared with 437 in the corresponding month of last year.

Authority was given to the superintendent to proceed with the improvements to the Kaimata Street entrance to Brooklands, as suggested,

Permission was granted to the W.W.S.A. to have a parade of their members on the sportsground on Sunday morning.

VANDALISM AT BROOKLANDS.

Acts of vandalism in the bush at Brooklands were reported by Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, at last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee. He stated that a number of young native trees, about 10 years old, had been hacked off, apparently by children, with a blunt tomahawk.

TH, OCTOBERBER 15, 1941

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

PREPARING FOR SUMMER

The work of erecting a ponga entrance from Kaimata Street into the south end of Brooklands had been completed and it was a really first-class job, said the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, in his report to the Pukekura Park Committee at its meeting last night.

Mr. F. Amooore presided, and there were also present Messrs. E. R. C. Gilmour, Mayor of New Plymouth, L. W. Lovell and H. V. McCready, C. E. Bellringer, F. W. Short, E. J. Carr and T. Horton.

The superintendent also reported a blockage in some of the drainage pipes under the terraces in the sportsground at the horseshoe bend. Some of the pipes had collapsed and had to be replaced. The Cricket Association had supplied some soil for top-dressing and the wickets were being prepared for the cricket season.

Mr. Horton said the boats had all been overhauled and repaired in readiness for the coming summer season. Weather conditions had prevented the staff from getting the park into the usual tidy condition as there had been so many high winds and rain. It was hoped to overcome the arrears of work at an early date.

The committee agreed to the sports-ground being made available for use to the North Division of the Taranaki Cricket Association for the coming season on the same terms as last year.

The Labour Day Sports Committee was also granted the use of the grounds, on the usual terms, for the annual Labour Day Sports.

The services of Mr. T. Horton were placed at the disposal of the Petone Borough Council in connection with plans for the laying out of a new park in that borough.

The chairman reported that a conference had been held with representatives of the Park Tennis Club and the Park Croquet Club and proposals considered for the provision of new playing grounds at the Brooklands area. A scheme was considered and approved under which it would be possible to provide six tennis courts and four croquet greens, but the matter could not be finally settled until a plan was prepared, which the borough engineer had in hand.

TH, OCTOBERBER 31, 1941

FIRST OUTDOOR PARADE

HIGH STANDARD OF W.W.S.A.

The first outdoor drill parade of the New Plymouth Women's War Service Auxiliary was held in Pukekura Park on Wednesday, over 100 women taking part.

Members who have been appointed as temporary n.c.o.'s acted as platoon commanders and sergeants throughout the parade, which for the most part consisted of company drill.

A high standard was set by the women in their drill on their first open-air parade, said Staff-Sergeant Major W. Hill, N.Z.P.S., who commanded the parade. He paid a tribute to those who acted as n.c.o.'s and platoon commanders and ably carried out their duties. The large muster was proof of the keenness of the girls who formed the unit, and their keenness was again reflected in the way they executed the drill movements.

Five platoons, three of cyclists who are being trained as dispatch riders, and two of canteen workers, formed the parade, and the whole was drilled as a company by Sergeant-Major Hill, who has been the drill instructor to the W.W.S.A. at New Plymouth.

Music which for a while was played over a loud speaker system being erected for a school display at the park tomorrow, was greatly appreciated by the unit and the instructors, said Sergeant-Major Hill. The women immediately showed an improvement in their marching when music was played, and the experience was especially valuable, because as yet the unit had been unable to obtain practice in marching to band music.

Uniforms for all the women in the unit were expected in the near future. In the meantime it was intended to continue the outdoor parades in Pukekura Park.

**TH, NOVEMBER 12, 1941
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee was held in New Plymouth last night. Mr. F. Amoores presided, and also present were Messrs. W. F. Short, L. W. Lovell, F. Parker, C. E. Bellringer, E. J. Carr, P. E. Stainton (secretary) and T. Horton (superintendent).

The Social Security Department wrote giving approval of wages subsidy in respect of employment of four married men for a further period of 13 weeks.

Permission was granted the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club for use of the Pukekura Park sports grounds for the coming season.

The Taranaki Cricket Association wrote informing the board of its proposal to allot a practice wicket to women desirous of engaging in the sport, at the opposite end of the ground to where the club practice wickets were, provided the board offered no objection. The letter was approved.

Work had been considerably hindered by rain and stormy weather, stated Mr. Horton, in his report. As a result of a good deal of extra work the grounds had been in excellent condition for the massed drill display of primary schools.

Pitches for both practice and competition cricket had been prepared and the season had opened last Saturday.

Repairs to damaged ponga work, bridges and broken seats had been carried out. The whole area of cultivated ground had been hoed and sorrel and other noxious weeds dug out. Mr. A. Cleaver, of Brooklands, had resigned from the staff as from November 30.

The question of getting ahead with the preparation of the tennis and croquet courts in the new Brooklands area—six tennis courts and four croquet greens being the object—resulted in a decision to approach the Borough Council to ask it to take the necessary levels and with a view to obtaining advice as to the best ways and means of having the work proceeded with.

The value of labelling plants for the benefit of those interested was commented on by Mr. Bellringer. He made appreciative reference to the fine specimens of rhododendrons on show.

PUKEKURA PARK BRIDGE.

The decision to paint the Pukekura Park bridge the same colour as formerly was made by the Pukekura Park Committee, New Plymouth, last night. Chipping off the rusted areas on the steel work of the bridge had been completed and the patches were now being given a good coat of priming, reported the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton.

TH, NOVEMBER 14, 1941

first—are in bloom in the conservatory. They are Mrs. A. S. Brandt, a shell pink flower, and two others in rich reds—Mrs. F. Breet, and "Huthie," the latter raised from a batch of seedlings and named after Mr. G. H. Huthnance, of the

park staff, who gives devoted service to the ferneries

IN FULL DISPLAY SHORTLY.

The begonias will be giving a full display before Christmas. Basket begonias are also beginning to hang flowers over the heads of visitors. Double lobelias are opening deep blue eyes and will be fully awake for the festive season. The only survival from a frost-tender species, a Kalanchoe, is set in a pot and attracts comment because of the gay red of its tiny flowers. The coloured leaves of Goleous shade from autumn tones to almost black and are a feature, while the maidenhair ferns are putting forth dainty new fronds.

Of cymbidium orchids, just finishing after a long life, one of the first in flower lasted for three and a half months. Cyclamens, cinerarias and primulas are making a last brave show.

Outside the fernery, one or two climbing roses are in bloom on the pergola. Here, however, opossums have wrought havoc and have denuded the foliage.

Bedding is in progress generally, although the season is backward and planting is later than usual. Before Christmas, however, a bright show of flowers is expected. By the fernery a "V" sign for victory has been planted in red Iresine, with a background of bronze and yellow African marigolds, and another similar pattern will be planted next week.

The main display in the beds will be of salvias, zinnias, phlox drummondii, celosia, canna lilies and charm dahlias. Standard fuchsias and begonia semperflorens will also be introduced.

Giving promise of flower before Christmas, the hydrangeas are progressing splendidly. In addition to many other varieties, the 24 new specimens which flowered for the first time last year will give a better display this season.

The first water lilies may be espied among a wealth of leaves.

WONDERFUL SHOW.

Reached by proceeding along the left side or the lake, across the second bridge and turning immediately to the left, the Sanders Bequest dell is a treasure trove of rhododendrons, which have given a wonderful display and are still well worth seeing. Visitors should not make the mistake of imagining that in the old rhododendron dell in the head or the gully past the fernery is the full display of these blooms.

A fine variety of rhododendrons includes a striking Sappho species, which is white with deep purplish patches which give the effect of bumble bees clustering in the blossoms. A pink Ragged Robin has the careless look which no doubt earned its name. Suggesting femininity, Loder's White has petals with crimped edges and wears a bridal frock. The pink Betty Wormald and the white, spotted with purple, Beauty of Littleworth, are noticeable. Holding its own, the well-known Pink Pearl adds to the many colours in the dell.

At Brooklands copper beeches strike a contrasting note against green, a

magnificent specimen of Fagus Cuprea spreading its wealth of leaves. A Paulonia Imperialis tree is striking with its flowers in a shade of soft lavender. A magnolia fuscata, or "port wine tree," is full of perfume. The huge chestnut tree which is the "pride of Brooklands," is clothed entirely in green, and a distance off walnut trees have followed the example and are in full leaf. A pink flowering horse chestnut, or Aeculus Rubicunda, stands like a debutante in the pride or a lovely frock.

The coloured azaleas are replacing the azalea mollis and a huge pink shrub gives greeting at the entrance to Brooklands. As in Pukekura Park, bedding is also in progress.

Lawns are shorn short and soft and deaden the sound of footsteps of visitors finding serenity in their surroundings.

TH, NOVEMBER 15, 1941

**TRIBUTE PAID
MRS. ANN BURGESS HONOURED
FURTHER GENEROSITY**

To mark the occasion of a further act of generosity by Mrs. Ann Burgess and to pay her tribute, the Pukekura Park Committee entertained her at morning tea to-day at the kiosk in the park.

Ten years ago, on November 16, 1931, Mrs. Burgess and her late husband, Mr. C. H. Burgess, on the occasion of their golden wedding, presented to the Pukekura Park Board and the citizens of New Plymouth the kiosk and all its contents. To-day, on the anniversary of what would have been Mrs. Burgess's diamond wedding, Mrs. Burgess carried out her own and her late husband's intention of replenishing and renovating the contents of the kiosk.

Mrs. Burgess was welcomed by Mr. F. Amoores, chairman of the committee, and Mr. P. E. Stainton, secretary, and accompanying her were Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Burgess. Others present were the Hon. J. McLeod, former chairman of the Park Board, Mr. F. S. Grayling, deputy-Mayor, and Messrs. E. J. Carr, W. F. Short, E. King, H. R. Billing, W. T. Guild, H. V. S. Griffiths and T. Horton (park superintendent).

After morning tea had been enjoyed, Mr. Amoores welcomed Mrs. Burgess and explained the reason of the function, which was to do her honour, he said. He recalled how, 10 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Burgess had conceived the idea of the kiosk, and after calling for designs for the project had accepted the one which they saw to-day. As chairman at that time, he had knowledge of the tremendous amount of work which had been entailed.

"You now have one of the nicest little kiosks in the Dominion as a result of the generosity of Mrs. and the late Mr. Burgess," said Mr. Amoores amid acclamation.

Mr. Amoores referred to the new tablecloths, china, curtains and renovated furniture in evidence at the kiosk for the first time this morning.

"On behalf of the Pukekura Park Committee, I have to thank you, and trust that you will be able to come along here for many years to come and have a cup of tea in this beautiful kiosk set in such cosy and beautiful surroundings." concluded Mr. Amoores.

Mr. Grayling joined with Mr. Amoores in his thanks. The late Mr. Burgess and Mrs. Burgess had previously occupied the position of chief citizens of New Plymouth, as Mayor and Mayoress. he recalled. During that time they did a wonderful amount of work. Their many gifts were well recognised by the people of New Plymouth who also appreciated their work as Mayor and Mayoress. In apologising for the absence of the Mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, who was out of town, Mr. Grayling tendered the thanks of citizens to Mrs. Burgess.

In expressing his pleasure in the occasion, the Hon. J. McLeod said that most of those present had pleasant memories of 10 years ago. He voiced the deep gratitude of the committee. The fact that, after 10 years, Mrs. Burgess was well and enthusiastic enough about the town to follow up her previous generous action in regard to the kiosk was gratifying, he said. The committee had endeavoured to maintain the high standard of the kiosk and he felt that this had been done. He also expressed pleasure in the good health of Mrs. Burgess.

COMMEMORATION SUGGESTED.

The suggestion was made by Mr. McLeod that, as a commemoration of the work of Mrs. and the late Mr. Burgess, a picture of each should be incorporated in the kiosk. They had never looked for laudation and such an act, bearing statement of their service and gifts to the town, would serve as a testimonial.

Musical honours were recorded Mrs. Burgess, who, in reply, impressed with her quiet and gracious manner. "I cannot tell you how nice it is to meet one's old friends," she said. "I find that, as the years roll by, one does not make friends as quickly as one used to do." The meeting to-day of old friends would give her fresh uplift and add to her memories, she said.

To-day would have been the anniversary of her diamond wedding. It seemed only yesterday that she and her late husband had stood receiving from the people of New Plymouth the "golden loving cup" which marked their golden wedding.

Mrs. Burgess recalled Mr. Burgess's suggestion, 10 years ago, that they should replenish the contents of the kiosk on this date. She told how she had bought the crockery in England, a year later, while on a visit with her husband, and how it had been stored in packing cases ever since and moved from place to place. "I am glad it has found its last resting place," she said.

"To-day will be one of my lovely memories," Mrs. Burgess concluded.

The kiosk looked very bright with its floral decorations, new check tablecloths, curtains and crockery in buttercup and floral design. Early in the proceedings, Mr. Stainton presented Mrs. Burgess with a magnificent bouquet made by Mrs. T. Horton.

TH, DECEMBER 10, 1941 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee, New Plymouth, was held last night, Mr. F. Amoores presiding. The chairman expressed pleasure in the attendance of the late chairman, the Hon. James McLeod, M.L.C.

The question of moving the meteorological station at Brooklands to make room for the four croquet courts and six tennis lawns which are being laid down was discussed. The secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, reported that the original cost of the station had been met by the New Plymouth Borough Council, and it was decided to confer with the council on the question. The chairman, secretary and Mr. C. E. Bellringer were appointed as a sub-committee.

General maintenance work had been carried out during the month, reported the parks superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. The walk on the western side of the main lake had been built up in low places, reformed and shingled. The planting of annuals in the flower beds at both Brooklands and Pukekura Park was practically completed. Examinations had been conducted at the park on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

TH, DECEMBER 16, 1941 PUBLIC SHELTER TRENCHES.

The public shelter trenches which are being dug in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, are intended for the use of business people and staffs in New Plymouth within the area from the post office to Gover Street. Persons outside that area will be expected to make use of their own private shelter trenches, which should be provided by every householder.

TH, DECEMBER 17, 1941 EXCELLENT PROGRESS TRENCHES AT PUKEKURA PARK AVOIDING DANGER AREAS

Working with vigour and purpose, the men who are engaged in digging slit trenches at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, have made excellent progress with their task.

Already trenches along Hughes' Walk — from the Carrington Road entrance to where the path from the centre of the park runs to Vogeltown—are completed. They are in six to 12 feet lengths with two feet of solid bank in between.

The men are now working on the path below Hughes' Walk next to the lower lake. The next area to be done will be just inside Gilbert Street gates as far as the lower gates.

Approximately 30 men, under the supervision of the borough engineer, Mr. R. F. Mainland, are engaged in the work. Mr. Mainland is conferring with the park's superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, in the choice of the sites. Mr. Horton's thorough knowledge of the park making his advice invaluable.

TH, DECEMBER 17, 1941 WHITE SWANS NEST AT PUKEKURA PARK A SITTING THAT FAILED

After a period of six or seven weeks, when an air of watchfulness—and even excitement—has reigned at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, an anti-climax was reached at the end of last week. It was found that the four cygnets which might have been now will be not, and the two white swans which have been sitting on the eggs are not the only ones who are disappointed.

Within the memory of the staff, these would have been the first white cygnets hatch at the park, had the sitting been successful. Behind it all lies a very interesting story—of an air of secrecy in the camouflaging of the nest, which was in an open position, to screen it from public view; of the erection of a warning notice "White swan dangerous when out of water;" and of the habits of the pair during the incubation period.

The four egg, which were a greyish-green colour, were laid between October 24 and 29. They measured 4 1/2 by 2 3/4 inches and weighed a full 10 ounces. Swans do not breed until they are about five years old and this pair have just reached that status.

TOOK IT IN TURNS.

From the time the first egg was laid the swans protected the eggs by sitting on the nest, although they did not actually "sit tight" until later. Not only the female bird but the male also took a turn at sitting on the eggs, while the lady swan stretched her legs, swam on the lake and looked for food. Often the male bird would stand on guard while his partner was still on the nest. So strong was his protective instinct that one day he attacked Mr. G. H. Huthnance, a member of the staff, who was in the vicinity of the nest. The bird, which had been on the lake and apparently noticed Mr. Huthnance in the vicinity, placed himself between him and the nest and then lashed out with a wing and gave Mr. Huthnance such a powerful flip that he had a tender spot on his leg for several days. The fact that the male bird is dangerous during the nesting season was the reason for the erection of the warning notice.

The nest, when first formed, was only a small heap of grass and rubbish, but was added to by the swans during the time they were sitting until, when it was broken up last week, it contained enough material to fill three wheel-barrow. The eggs were placed in a shallow depression on the top and several times when the birds were off the nest they covered the eggs with loose rubbish.

After more than the required time had elapsed, the eggs were investigated by being held up to the light and it was discovered that three were not fertile. The fourth egg had disappeared and its disappearance remains a mystery. When the nest was broken up as a result, the female swan tenaciously refused to leave and had to be chased away and her partner on returning to the spot showed signs of flight. However, the nest is now only heap of ashes.

There are three white swans at Pukekura Park, the third being a female. A fourth white swan did not survive. The male bird is distinguished by a larger black knob at the base of the bill and is of bigger build. Five black swans also belong to the park.

TH, DECEMBER 29, 1941 BEAUTY IN BEGONIAS FINE DISPLAY AT PARK

POOR ATTENDANCE OF VISITORS

The earliest and finest Christmas display of begonias grown in the ferneries in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, has this year been patronised by the poorest attendance of holiday visitors since the ferneries were first opened.

The chief reason for this neglect of a great attraction is without doubt restrictions on travel, both by motor-car and by train. To a lesser degree the weather has diminished the number of visitors, but there appears to be a marked neglect on the part of those most intimately concerned—the residents of New Plymouth.

A very few figures will give a clear picture of the position. The best day's attendance since the ferneries were first opened was 540—on a Boxing Day. On Boxing Day, 1941, the number of visitors was 15 and on Christmas Day 18 persons paid for admission. The attendance on Saturday and yesterday showed a slight improvement on these figures but the holiday patronage so far has been negligible.

PROFUSE BLOOMS.

Special efforts were made this year by the staff to get the fullest profusion of

blossoms in time for the holiday season, and these efforts have been rewarded by a striking display. Despite a late spring, the benches are crowded with a magnificent collection of delicate and dainty flowers.

The late spring has had an unexpected effect. While it has not retarded the development of flowers, the growth of foliage has been slow, with the result that the blooms stand well clear of the leaves and can be seen to greater advantage.

NOVEL EFFECTS.

Another innovation has this year been employed with charming effect. It was found last year that begonias thrived better in ponga baskets than in pots, and a large number of baskets have been filled. With the outside of the baskets covered with the graceful fronds of maidenhair ferns, the roof of the large conservatory is a fascinating picture.

Most of these baskets contain a type of begonia of which the flowers droop in elegant fashion. Offsetting the delicacy of the begonia flowers are many fine baskets of brilliant blue lobelias.

The arrangement of begonias in full flower on the conservatory shelves provides a setting for many beautiful specimen pots of coleus, of which the ferneries have always had a good stock of the choicest tints. Plentiful reserves of all varieties in the nursery hothouse ensures that the attractions shall be fully maintained for many months.

The growth of ferns in the two lower houses is now in full beauty. Most of the varieties which take many years to reach maturity are now at their best, and in all departments of this delightful annex to the spacious beauties of the park, the results of many years' care and nurture are apparent in a charming and complete picture.



Giant Ginko - List Gardens – Pukekura Park. Photo A Metcalfe

1942

When Brooklands was handed over in 1934 Messrs. Horton and Boulton suggested planting a shelter belt on the southern and western boundaries of Brooklands, however, it was not until 1942 that Horton planted a shelter belt along the Kaimata St boundary. THDE, July 22, "Planted trees at Brooklands."; July 23, "Men finishing off the trees at Brooklands."; July 26, "List of trees planted 22nd & 23rd at Brooklands Kaimata St." The trees listed are: 106 lawsoniana, 5 years old, 5s each, £26; 20 lawsoniana, 3 years old, 10s, 40 Podocarpus totara, 5 years old, 4s each, £8; 40 kowhai, 4 years old, 2s 6d each, £8; 24 Rewarewa, @ 2s 9d each, £3 6s. Four men did the job in 2.5 days. Some of these trees can be seen next to the Ambush Gully nature walk.

During the war it was decided that slit trenches should be dug to protect people in the event of an air raid. These were simply holes in the ground approximately 3 ft wide, 3 to 5ft. deep, and in Pukekura Park, 12ft long. They were made to cater for people working in town and were dug next to the paths at the northern end of the park, beside the paths from the Fillis Street entrance, the Gilbert Street entrance, and the Victoria Road entrance at the end of Gilbert Street. They were designed to protect against shrapnel, not a direct hit. During the war at night blackouts were in force hence walking through the park at night could prove dangerous and people falling into trenches was not unheard of. They were also traps for nocturnal animals like hedgehogs. In Pukekura Park 300, 12ft long trenches were dug, approximately 1500 yards of earth being excavated. The earth that was dug out was piled next to the trench as a bund. The trenches were never used in New Zealand and generally they were filled in a year or two later.

Sometimes extra assistance came from men temporarily employed through Government subsidy schemes. An unemployment Board was set up in 1930 to administer such schemes. In 1942 they were operating scheme 13 which the park benefitted from.

Visitor numbers were down at the beginning of the year and one of the contributing factors was the introduction of fuel rationing, which meant people were travelling less.

Two more staff were called up to serve in the war. George Huthnance and Edwin Grant were a big loss to Horton at a time when staffing was already depleted. Huthnance held a diploma in horticulture and ran the fernery. To help in the fernery Noline Lawson was hired joining her sister who had been working there for about 3 years.



Evelyn and Noline Lawson, fernery workers during wartime.
(private collection, Warwick Horton.)

TH, JANUARY 10, 1942

LADIES CRICKET

Match Cancelled.

A cricket match to have been played at Pukekura Park to-day between Old Boys and Western Park was cancelled, Western Park forfeiting. The ground, however, was occupied by women cricketers who were to have played at Sanders Park.

TH, JANUARY 21, 1942

**RARE DISPLAY
BEGONIAS AND FERNS
COLOUR AT PUKEKURA PARK**

Rarely has Pukekura Park presented more pleasing appearance than at present, for in spite of bad weather conditions extending over some months the gardens are now masses of blooms, their effectiveness being enhanced by the spell of good weather this week.

There are many attractive features at Pukekura Park which at present merit the attention of the public, whether flower-lovers or not. Pride of place is held by the fernery and begonia house which have never been in a more attractive condition at the same time as they are this year.

With giant primulas, delicately shaded hydrangeas and thousands of ferns in every shade of green, lining the paths and tunnels leading from one fernery to another, the houses are a delightful spectacle.

Mounting the steps from a tunnel, the visitor is suddenly confronted by a brilliant display of begonias, attractively arranged to give the impression of a mass of colour extending from the ground to the ceiling. Some of the blooms are extremely large and there is an amazing number of shades and varieties. Visitors from other parts of the country have been very appreciative of the flowers that are on view and have expressed surprise at finding such an extensive range as in the houses in a town of New Plymouth's size.

FEWER VISITORS.

Since Christmas Eve there have been 600 people on the rowing boats on the lake, and about 1000 visitors to the fernery and begonia house. During the same period last year there were 1600 on the boats and 2500 at the fernery, while 2300 patronising the boats and 6000 visiting the fernery created a record during the holiday period of 1939-40.

Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of Pukekura Park, said that special interest was being taken at the present time in the new hydrangeas which were brought from Belgium three years ago and which are a great improvement on most of the varieties previously grown. There are two trees of each of the 26 Belgian varieties, which are in full bloom just now.

GAY FLOWER BEDS.

The flower beds are beginning to make a brilliant show, one of the most attractive being a large circular bed of giant zinnias. There are also in full bloom standard fuchsias which are a novelty in Taranaki and well worth close inspection.

Other beds, including those containing salvia bonfire, marigolds, iresine, are coming on well and should be at their best in a week or two. The waterlilies on

the lakes are flowering especially well this season, the large scarlet variety being particularly effective.

Mr. Horton said in an interview to-day that although he very much regretted that owing to shortage of labour and the very wet season it had not been possible to maintain the park in usual excellent condition, it was hoped that with the return of summer weather and the assistance of extra men to overtake arrears of work in a short time.

**TH, FEBRUARY 10, 1942
METEOROLOGICAL STATION**

Proposals for the removal of the New Plymouth meteorological station from its present site at Brooklands to an approved site on Marsland Hill were referred by the Borough Council last night to the works committee with power to act. Agreement with the proposal was expressed by the Pukekura Park Committee, and it was intimated that the Controller of Prisons had sanctioned the undertaking of the reading and care of the instruments and the making of the records by members of the staff of H.M. Reformatory.

**TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1942
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
300 TRENCHES DUG
WORK AT PUKEKURA PARK**

In his report at last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee, the parks superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, said that 300 trenches, each 12 feet in length, had been dug under the direction of the borough engineer. They had been so placed as not to interfere with pedestrian traffic more than necessary.

There was little of interest to report as most of the work had gone into maintenance of the grounds, he said. There had been phenomenal growth this season, which had considerably increased the work usual at this time of the year, but they had been fortunate in having the help of some Scheme 13 men. The forest areas were in a bad way with grass and weeds, but he hoped to attend to them soon.

Brooklands and the garden areas of the park were very bright considering the weather, and the fernery and begonias had never looked better.

FEWER VISITORS.

The number of visitors during Christmas and New Year was much below normal. Not only petrol restrictions and the war were responsible but the weather prevented even the local people from using the park. Since Christmas 1700 tickets had been sold at the fernery.

The New Plymouth Ladies' Cricket Club were granted the use of the sports ground free of charge.

Mr. P. Sheppard, representing the Taranaki Cricket Association, waited on the meeting to ask for a reduction in the rental charge for the use of the Sports Ground this season. Only five games had been played prior to Christmas and none since, the war had brought most of the cricketing activities to a standstill. The committee decided to make no charge at all this season.

At the request of the Taranaki Hospital Board permission was granted Mr. Horton to visit Waitara for the purpose of advising on the planning and planting

of the Waitara Maternity Hospital grounds.

Two members of the park staff had been called up and expected soon to go into camp, said Mr. Horton. He saw no chance of replacing them but would have to carry on by re-arranging the remaining staff.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1942

**SUMMER FLOWERS
NOW AT THEIR BEST**

ATTRACTION OF PUKEKURA PARK
If Londoners should "come to Kew in lilac-time," Taranakians should come to Pukekura Park in summer-time.

The cool paths, the lacy ferns, and the shimmering lakes are attraction enough on a fine day, but that is only half the story of colour and beauty, for the seasonal flowers are at their best now.

The first bridge on the lake has been newly painted and makes a vivid splash of pillar-box red, which is accentuated by the surrounding green. The colour flashes out between the trees as the visitor walks around the lake and from the tea-kiosk it seems reflected in the red of the cannas and begonias.

The flower beds near the fernery are full of blooms and have already responded to the warmth of the past few days. There are stately standard fuchsias and masses of zinnias and phlox, African marigolds and blue ageratum.

One section of the fernery is cool and green with ferns, another warm and heavy with the exotic perfume of lilyum auratum. The begonia house is ablaze with tropical reds, pinks and yellows of begonias. The beautiful crimson bells of the climbing hapageria rosea perfecta strike a vivid contrast against a pure white species adjacent.

BORDERS AT BROOKLANDS.

The wide borders of blue and white agapanthus lining the drive to Brooklands make a fitting introduction to the spacious lawns and stately trees which are, as usual, the main feature. The dahlias are particularly fine and an unusually pretty patch of colour is provided by a bed of purple verbena edged with the little cream buttons of metrocaria.

One end of the Brooklands lake is thickly spangled with pale pink waterlilies, enhanced by the reflected blue of the sky.

With the air still alive with the sounds of birds and cicadas, and the scent of flowers. It is little wonder that Pukekura Park is such an attraction in summer-time.

**TH, FEBRUARY 13, 1942
ATHLETIC SPORTS
AMATEURS AT PARK**

The first of a series of weekly sports meetings was held at Pukekura Park last evening by the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club. New competitors who took part included members of the R.N.Z.A.F., the Air Training Corps and pupils of the Boys' High School.

TH, FEBRUARY 23, 1942

Band at Park.

The Taranaki Regimental-New Plymouth Municipal auxiliary band gave

a recital in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, yesterday afternoon. There was a good attendance of the public to hear the band and the programme was warmly appreciated. The standard of the music was good considering the losses the band has suffered through members being called up for military service.

TH, FEBRUARY 27, 1942

**SIGNS OF AUTUMN
CHANGE OF SEASON
PUKEKURA PARK COLOUR**

The autumn touch is already noticeable among the trees at Pukekura Park and Brooklands, New Plymouth.

The Japanese maples are tinted with the first flush of red and everywhere there is that feeling of suspended activity as though the garden is having a brief respite before the colder weather comes.

After the visitor goes through the darkened tunnel in the fernery at Pukekura Park the begonias at the top of the steps seem dazzling by contrast. They are still at their prime—perfect in size and vivid in colour. It seems incredible that such different colours and each so perfect of its kind can be produced in the one kind of flower.

The curious Brazilian pitcher plant—*nepenthes*—is preparing to display more of its insect-devouring vessels. The two present ones are about five inches long, borne upright at the end of wiry stems that extend from the ends of the leaves. At the bottom of the pitcher is the deadly sweet liquid that lures the unwary insects to a sticky doom. Once entrapped they remain there till absorbed by the plant.

On the ponga summer-house in front of the fernery the climber called *cobaea scandens* has three stages of flower showing at once: the young trumpet, pale green as it first meets the light, the soft purple as it hardens, and finally the rich deep purple of the matured blossom. There is also some fruit developing.

The bank at end of the flower garden is dominated by a large specimen of *hydrangea paniculata grandiflora* covered with huge heads of creamy white blossoms. The ordinary *hydrangeas* are still sending up a few new flower heads. *Vulcan* and *carmen* are intense cerise with blue tips; *daphne*, deep rose with sharply serrated petals; *Hamburg* has enormous "pips," blue and serrated; and *Tosca* is a perfect double, also blue and serrated. The older flowers growing in the shade are taking on all those olive greens and metallic blues and pinks which so help to prolong their beauty.

In Brooklands the strong sweet scent of *magnolia grandiflora* draws attention to the huge creamy white flowers opening all over the tree. Across the lawns the *posturni magnolia* is also scenting the air with its peculiar perfume which seems to be a cross between nail varnish and over-ripe bananas.

There is also a sign of autumn in the prickly cases of the nuts on the Spanish chestnut and the "conkers" on the horse chestnut in the valley near the lake.

TH, MARCH 3, 1942

**GREAT NATURALIST
WORK FOR HORTICULTURE
DEATH OF MR. W. W. SMITH**

Mr. W. W. Smith, a well-known citizen of New Plymouth and one of the leading horticulturists and naturalists of New Zealand, died at the New Plymouth Public Hospital this morning.

Mr. Smith, who was in his 90th year, was born in Hawick, Scotland, in 1852. He was apprenticed as a gardener at Wilton Lodge for five years doing general gardening and glasshouse work. He subsequently was employed at Rosehill for one year, Lowithwaite Hall, Keswick, for one year, and Burghley House, Oakham for two and a-half years.

On coming to New Zealand he was for four and a-half years in charge of the late Mr. J. B. A. Acland's garden at "Arlincote," Mt. Peel, Canterbury. Besides a large shrubbery, this garden embraced the raising of grapes, glasshouse and outdoor flowers and vegetables.

ENTHUSIASM FOR BOTANY.

Subsequently, over a long period of years, Mr. Smith was in charge of the Ashburton Domain, where his enthusiasm for botany and kindred pursuits gained him many friends. The present beauty and utility of the Ashburton Domain are, in a large measure, due to the practical knowledge and resourcefulness of Mr. Smith. Among over 20 papers contributed by him to the Transactions of the New Zealand Institute (now Royal Society) and including papers on ants, birds, earthworms etc., that on the "Exotic Plants Naturalised in the Ashburton County" is of outstanding importance.

**IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT
APPOINTMENT.**

His work at Ashburton brought him under the particular notice of the Government of the day and the late Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon appointed him as a Commissioner to the Scenery Department of the New Zealand Government. The Commission travelled throughout New Zealand and, as a result of their work, a large number of parks and reserves of natural beauty were dedicated for all time. This work occupied Mr. Smith for two years and was of incalculable value to the Dominion.

Subsequently Mr. Smith was employed by Mrs. Barton at Featherston and later for a short period he was in charge of the public gardens at Palmerston North.

For 12 years, from 1908 to 1920, he was in charge of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. He designed the general plan of the park and saw many of the present walks completed. He planted many of the rare trees and always insisted, sometimes in the face of considerable opposition, that pre-eminence should always be given in the park to the native plants of New Zealand. He began an open-air fernery, little dreaming of the wonderful developments which would subsequently take place even in this department of the park.

FIELD NATURALIST.

The late G. M. Thomson has stated "that, as a field naturalist, Mr. W. W. Smith is second to none in the Dominion in the accuracy and thoroughness of his observations." Almost any work on botany, ornithology or entomology

published in New Zealand makes reference to his work. Mr. Smith's name is associated with those of G. M. Thomson, F. W. Hutton, Sir J. Hector, Sir J. von Haast, Professor Charles Chilton and, overseas, Professors Newton, of Cambridge, Beddard, of London, McCoy, of Melbourne, and Sir John Lubbock, of Kent. All of these corresponded or conferred with him.

Hundreds of New Zealanders are indebted to Mr. Smith for his willingness to identify and describe plant and insect specimens shown to him. He maintained a large correspondence with children interested in plants, bugs, beetles, etc., up to recent years, when failing health and increasing years restricted his activities.

In May, 1936, His Majesty the King recognised Mr. Smith's work by granting a medal to him.

Doing good unobtrusively and never seeking the limelight, Mr. Smith endeared himself to thousands of New Zealanders and kindled in them his own enthusiasm for the wonders of nature. He accomplished a wonderful work for horticulture and its allied arts and sciences.

Mr. Smith is survived by three sons.

TH, MARCH 11, 1942

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
CHAIRMAN WELCOMED BACK**

Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Varnham, M.C., E.D., chairman of the Pukekura Park Committee, New Plymouth, was welcomed by the committee last night at the first meeting since his return from overseas.

The appointment of a chairman in his absence was only temporary, but he asked that the present position should continue until he had more time to devote to the duties of chairmanship. He expressed thanks for the cordial welcome and said he was very impressed with the improvements and developments in the park since he left.

He mentioned that Mr. I. B. Waddell, a former park employee, was now a prisoner of war. Mr. Waddell was in his battalion, and he often talked with him of park activities. Mr. Waddell had asked him to convey his good wishes to the members of the committee and employees.

During the month of February 699 people visited the Pukekura Park fernery, the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported. The flower beds at both Brooklands and Pukekura were very bright, and most of the rough growth of grass, fern, fennel and blackberry growing on the forest area had been cut.

The superintendent had been to Petone to inspect and report on the lay-out of the Percy's Scenic Reserve for the Petone Borough Council.

With the committee's permission, Mr. Horton will supervise the laying-out of the grounds of the Waitara Maternity Hospital, at the request of the Taranaki Hospital Board.

TH, MARCH 11, 1942

GIRLS FOR PARK WORK.

The difficulty of procuring suitable labour at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, in view of the number of men called up

was discussed by the Pukekura Park Committee last night. The opinion was expressed that it might be necessary to replace the men as far as possible with women or girls, Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, stating that he had had several applications. As the committee's year closes at the end of March, the position will be discussed at the next meeting.

**TH, APRIL 16, 1942
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
RAIN SPOILS FLOWER BEDS**

Excessive rain had completely spoiled many of the flower beds at Pukekura Park, reported the superintendent of New Plymouth parks and reserves, Mr. T. Horton, to the Pukekura Park Committee last night. One bridge was being reconstructed.

An anonymous donor had forwarded £5 5s

The application of the Taranaki Football Association for a reduction in rent from £20 to £15 was granted.

The secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, outlined the financial position, pointing out that additional commitments of the borough council made it imperative for every pound to be saved. The board's revenue had been adversely affected by the war, but expenditure had been kept at the minimum. A committee was appointed to consider estimates for the year.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Confirmation of the superintendent's action in appointing Miss. N. Lawson as assistant at the fernery (to join her sister).

**TH, MAY 13, 1942
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
STRICTEST ECONOMY NEEDED
PUKEKURA PARK FINANCES**

The strictest economy would be needed to keep within the estimated finances for the ensuing year, it was reported at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night. The sub-committee appointed to go into the Committee's finances presented a budget for the ensuing year which, they said, depended on conditions and the revenue from the fernery and the hire of the boats on the lake.

The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that the fernery attendance for the month was 836.

The chairman, Mr. F. Amore, reported that the application of Miss C. E. Price to take over the lease of the kiosk from June 1 had been accepted.

It was decided that the Boys' High School be given permission for their football teams to use the park grounds.

**TH, JUNE 10, 1942
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
MORE TREES IN PARK.**

At a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee, New Plymouth, last night it was decided to plant trees on an area of the park at the back of Brooklands, between the belt of shelter trees and Kaimata Street. This area, of about one and a-half acres, was previously let for

grazing. The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that the fences had been repaired and an entrance was being put in. The fernery was visited by 514 people during May.

**TH, JULY 15, 1942
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
NEW PLANTING SCHEME
WORK IN PUKEKURA PARK**

Preparatory work in connection with the new planting scheme at the back of Brooklands had been undertaken, Mr. T. Horton, the Pukekura Park superintendent, reported to the committee at its meeting last night.

The fences had been put in first class order and the area had been pegged out and holes dug ready for planting. It was hoped that this would be done before the end of the month.

Attendance at the fernery for the month of June was 432, a decrease of 15 on the attendance for June of last year.

On the motion of Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, it was decided, in view of the small amount of business, to hold meetings once in two months instead of monthly, matters in connection with the sportsground to be dealt with, as they arose, by the sports committee.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

The financial statement showed a Debit Balance of £385 6s 2d. It also showed monies from several estates which was held in trust.

Sanders Bequest Fund	£465 11s 7d
Mary Bingham (General)	£117 0s 9d
Mary Bingham (improve)	£50 7s 6d
Joseph Attrill	£115 0s 10d
M. E. Freeth	£73 16s 11d
Annie Hulke	£100.

**TH, AUGUST 13, 1942
"LOLLY-POP" PLANT.**

A showy plant with masses of white flowers striped red and white on the back of the petals has attracted much attention at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, where it is growing on the rockery outside the fernery. It is a member of the oxalis family, a widely distributed genus, including annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. This species, oxalis esculenta, has a radish-like root for which the plant is extensively grown in the south of France. It gets its popular name of Lolly-pop from its striped colouring. Another not so popular member of the family, oxalis acetosella, is the common wood-sorrel which is becoming such a troublesome weed in New Zealand gardens.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 9, 1942
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
TREE IN PARK FELLED WITHOUT
AUTHORITY
SERIOUS VIEW TAKEN**

A kohekohe tree about seven feet in circumference had been felled without authority in the Brooklands end of Pukekura Park, near Upjohn Street, stated Mr. T. Horton, parks superintendent, at a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee in New Plymouth last night. The main offender

was known to the committee, which took a serious view of the matter and decided to warn the man of the consequences if any other trees were felled.

The bole of the tree was discovered before it was cut up, but all the branches had already been taken away. "I warned the offender," said Mr. Horton, "forbade him to enter that part of the park again, and told him the committee would use the timber for posts."

Special circumstances explained by Mr. Horton suggested that the man was not alone responsible for the offence.

Other smaller trees in the locality were also hacked down by children, Mr. Horton thought. "I look upon this as a most serious matter," he added, "and I think drastic measure should be taken to stop further destruction."

That was not the only place in the reserves where trees had been cut, Mr. W. F. Short said. Someone had been chopping in the bush on the Gover Street side of Pukekura Park.

VISITORS TO FERNERY

The fernery in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, continues to draw large numbers of visitors, the total in the past two months being 548. In addition some hundreds of men in uniform paid visits for which no charge was made.

**TH, NOVEMBER 11, 1942
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mr. F. Amore presided over a meeting of the Pukekura Park committee in New Plymouth last night.

The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that all cultivated areas had been dug and some flower beds planted. The balance would be planted this month. The tulip beds had been most attractive when in bloom. The most attractive feature at the park at present were the new Sanders bequest rhododendrons.

The fernery attendance for the past two months was 716. The roofs of the glasshouse were, being painted for shading.

The swings had been repaired and a notice set up that they, are for the use of children up to 12 years of age only.

Two wickets had been provided for the use of High School boys on four nights a week and two for soldiers."

The weight of overhanging, tree ferns and other growth had caused a breakaway of about 20 feet at the north end of the lower lake. The broken bank was about three feet in width. Stakes and wire had been put around temporarily pending permanent repair work.

**TH, DECEMBER 9, 1942
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
FILLING IN OF TRENCHES.**

The suggestion that some of the trenches in Pukekura Park, in particular those bordering the main paths, should now be filled in was made at a meeting of the park board in New Plymouth last night. As it was considered their value had declined since their construction and there was a certain amount of danger in the trenches, it was decided to place the suggestion before the Army authorities.

1943

Vandalism was a serious issue during the war and in 1943 it was probably at its worst. One act that stood out was the destruction of the Gilbert Street entrance gates by a car driving into them. One of the more unusual forms of vandalism was the theft of two pitchers from the *Nepenthes* plant in the begonia house. This plant had been a centre of interest, and school children enjoyed lessons about it during visits to the park. The pitcher plant, as it is commonly called, has two pitchers, or long bell-like tubes, with a liquid inside which attracts unwary insects. The insects steal into the pitcher to feast on the liquid and are trapped, the plant absorbing them for food. The theft of the pitchers meant that the exhibit lost its interest until the following season, when the strange growth would form again.

The parapara, or bird-catching plant, was, and still is controversial. This is the plant that small birds or even moreporks can get caught up in and die if unable to free themselves. From a report in the *Taranaki Herald*, a bird lover, not happy with the plant being in the park, would break off the branches bearing the pods when the sticky seed pods appeared. There are over a dozen in the park now, rather than snapping off branches, removing the sticky seed pods would seem more appropriate.

A sad event in the park was the drowning of Barry Frank Brown, aged four years eight months. He was found in the Brooklands lake. The exact circumstances of how he ended up in the lake were not known.

The meteorological station at Brooklands Park was shut down and moved to Marsland Hill. Its exact location is not known but was likely to have been in the vicinity of the Gables.

When T. C. List donated a part of the Maranui gully to the Borough Council along with C. W. Wilkinson in 1934, it was stated that a second piece of land associated with the homestead would also be donated when Mrs. List no longer wanted it. During wartime it was difficult to get the labour to look after the garden and the decision was made to hand over the land (section marked A on plan below). To gain access from List Street the council purchased (section B below) a smaller section from the List estate. Section A includes the List garden and the giant ginko.



Maranui land added to Brookland (Puke Ariki ARC2014-043)

TH, JANUARY 29, 1943

WILD DUCKLINGS

**SEASON AT PUKEKURA PARK
MORE SURVIVORS THAN USUAL**

Although not as many wild ducklings have been hatched at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, this season compared with last year, which was a record one, a larger number have survived.

The mortality rate among ducklings is very high and usually only about 10 per cent. survive. It is estimated that about 70 to 80 ducklings have been hatched at the park this season and 14 or 15 are likely to reach maturity.

The breeding season generally started at about the end of September and lasted until the end of November, it was stated to-day by a New Plymouth resident who is a keen observer of the ducks in the park. Last year a few broods made their appearance in January, however, and this year the same thing had happened. "In fact," he said, "a brood of seven was hatched on the lake in the Brooklyn paddock as late as Wednesday. This is very late and the brood may be the second one of the mother duck."

EELS A MENACE.

Accounting for the high mortality rate the observer said that there were many causes. Eels were a menace to ducklings.

"At the park this season I have actually seen large eels drag the ducklings under," he said. "Others get separated from their mothers and are lost. Sometimes they are attacked by other ducks and some of the mothers are not able to defend their young ones against these attacks. A lot depends on the mother duck keeping her brood together and being able to ward off attacks successfully." Water rats also had a taste for young ducklings, and stoats and weasels were another danger. The mortality rate was highest in the first week of life, the observer added.

TH, FEBRUARY 5, 1943

STRANGE HAPPENINGS

IN PUKEKURA PARK

ACTS OF VANDALISM

There have been strange happenings at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, lately. One garden seat at least is apparently bewitched.

For a long time—that is, before the ghosts began to walk—this seat occupied a secluded spot by the upper lake near the fernery. Then, about a month ago, it changed its location overnight. The staff at the park one morning discovered it in an entirely different spot and wondered. It did not end there, however. On several occasions since the seat has wandered and made its appearance some-where else, until finally week it grew even bolder and was found in the middle of the lawn by the fernery, without even saying "I beg your pardon." This seat is a heavy one and would require two persons to shift it.

On the other side of the lake the erring garden seat has a kindred spirit in another seat, which has been up to the same antics. There is speculation at the

park as to just where these two seats will appear next.

The example of the two seats was also followed recently by the name plate in front of a native tree. This plate wandered off and was found set in a bed of flowers to which the tree was no relation.

BOATHOUSE ENTERED.

Apart from these happenings there have been ones or a more serious nature. Only this week, it was stated yesterday, the boathouse at the park had been broken into twice at night. On the first occasion, early in the week, several boards were torn off the back of the boathouse. The culprits, entering by these means and apparently lowering themselves straight into a boat, must have dropped heavily, as an oar was found broken, the cost of replacing this being 19s 6d. One boat was found next morning by the steps from which they are hired.

A petty theft occurred last Monday when the largest begonia ever seen at park was stolen. This was the pink Thelma Delancy, one of the park's own seedlings and the pride of the exhibition of begonias.

Another recent loss at the park has been the theft of the two pitchers from the Nepenthes plant in the begonia house. This plant has been a centre of interest, and school children especially have enjoyed lessons about it during visits to the park. The pitcher plant, as it is commonly called, had two pitchers, or long bell-like tubes, with a liquid inside which attracts unwary insects. The insects steal into the pitcher to feast on the liquid and are trapped, the plant absorbing them for food. The theft of the pitchers means that this exhibit loses its interest until next season, when the strange growth will form again.

At the tea kiosk, it was stated when inquiries were made, teaspoons had a habit of disappearing, and customers sometimes walked out without paying.

BROKEN BRIDGE.

Evidence of vandals' work is also represented by the bridge between the park and Brooklands. This bridge runs over the lake where water-lilies are now growing in profusion and is set in such a pretty spot that it justifies the best repair. Last spring it was renovated, and spanned the water firmly, but now there are yawning gaps where boards are missing, making safety uncertain. It is, in fact, a flagrant example of a careless lack of public spirit and pride in the surroundings.

Life at Brooklands has apparently been more serene. Previously there used to be trouble in keeping cyclists from riding on the grass, but owing to sterner admonitions lately the position has eased.

TH, FEBRUARY 10, 1943

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

INCREASED REVENUE

PARK FERNERY AND BOATS

A substantial increase in attendance and revenue at Pukekura Park fernery during the past holiday season, compared with the same period last year, was reported

by the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to the committee last night, and gratification was expressed by the members.

The figures for the fernery for the period Christmas Day, 1942, to January 31, 1943, with those for the previous year in parentheses, are: 3180 tickets sold (1357); value, £79 10s (£33 18s 6d).

The boats were patronised to a greatly increased extent also, the figures over the period being: Tickets, 1809 (727); value, £45 4s 6d (£18 3s 6d).

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Slit Trenches. The Chairman advised that the military authorities had been communicated with and they had agreed that on account of the Slit Trenches having been dug on the vacant sections around the town, the necessity for the slit trenches in the park did not now exist and they were in agreement that they could be filled in.

TH, MARCH 10, 1943

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

FERNERY ATTENDANCES.

Attendances at the fernery during the past month were 1007, reported Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, at a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee in New Plymouth last night. The average monthly attendance over the past year was 700.

EFFECT OF WET WEATHER.

The wet weather had caused a deal of work to be deferred during the past month, reported the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. Water-tables, ditches and drains at the park had been severely taxed with the extra amount of surface water and blockages and scour-outs had caused a lot of extra repair work.

TH, MARCH 15, 1943

MARCHING DISPLAY

A spectacular exhibition of quickstep marching and other maneuvers was given in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, by the Taranaki Regimental Band during week-end leave from camp. A recital programme under the direction of Bandmaster Sergeant C. Martin was given from the band rotunda, following which the band proceeded to the sportsground for the marching display under Drum-Major Dennison. There was a large attendance of the public and warm appreciation of the band's playing and marching was shown. They left to-day for Stratford and Hawera.

TH, MARCH 22, 1943

SIGNS OF AUTUMN

PASSING OF SUMMER

Summer with all her airy grace has vanished from Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, and autumn has followed in her stead.

Immediately the visitor enters the park he sees signs of autumn. Men are busy sweeping the leaf-strewn paths; the blue smoke from bonfires rises lazily in the crisp air and everywhere the foliage of trees is changing colour.

As usual, the most beautiful spot in the park is the fernery. Here the begonias are still making a good show.

Outside the fernery the flower-beds are gay with colour. The of *Salvia Bonfire* is particularly beautiful. The zinnias are now at their best and the asters add to this picture of autumn.

The hydrangeas, which recently attracted a great deal of attention, are still very popular. They have donned their autumn dress and though less gay than the other flowers are just as lovely.

TH, APRIL 14, 1943

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
BEAUTIFYING MARSLAND HILL.**

The Pukekura Park Committee last night authorised the Superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to supply to the Marsland Hill Reserve Committee cuttings of rhododendrons not required for the park or Brooklands, for planting between the flowering cherries in the avenue at the back of St. Mary's Church. Mr. Horton said there were only a few, and he could not recommend the opening up of a new area for this purpose in Brooklands.

SHOW OF BEGONIAS.

"Begonias in the fernery at Pukekura Park are still blooming well," said the Superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, in his report to the committee last night. "We hope still to have a good showing of blooms until after Easter," he added.

FERNERY AND BOATS.

Visitors to the fernery at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, for March totalled 1428, compared with 710 for the corresponding month of last year. The takings for boat hire for the period between Christmas and March 31 were £79 11s compared with £43 for the corresponding period of last year.

REPORT ON AFFORESTATION.

Authority was given by the Pukekura Park Committee last night for Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, to make a report to the New Plymouth Rehabilitation Committee on the possibilities of afforestation in the Taranaki area as a means of providing employment for ex-servicemen on their discharge from military service.

TH, APRIL 26, 1943

**"ALL-IN" PARADE
HONOURING THE ANZACS
A COLOURFUL MARCH**

The ceremony in New Plymouth yesterday in honour of the Anzacs brought together the most colourful and inspiring parade that has ever been seen on such occasion. It embraced servicemen and women of three wars and the auxiliary services of the present war as well as many other semi-public organisations and made a picturesque sight.

The brilliant scarlet tunics of the members of the Regimental Band gave a striking "head" to the procession. This contrasted with the "civies" of South African and Great War veterans. Among the latter were touches of khaki with the tab "New Zealand" on the shoulder of battledress uniforms, denoting men

returned from service in the present war. The khaki of the 2nd. Battalion Taranaki Regiment and that of the Home Guard and the W.A.A.C., was offset by the blue of the R.N.Z.A.F. and the W.A.A.F., this section being headed by a team of girl drummers. Another shade of blue was seen in the Red Cross Transport section uniforms. Black with white facings and grey and white with red linings, were seen in the uniforms of representatives of the St. John Ambulance brigade and the Women's Nursing Division, and the Red Cross section of nurses, while there were further brighter touches in the colours of Girl Guides', Scouts' and Cubs' uniforms. The colours of the Caledonian Society's Pipe Band had their own distinctive effect, heightened by the sway of the kilts.

IMPRESSIVE MARCHING.

The parade was marshalled by Lieutenants F. S. Grayling and I. V. Aroa and the march was past the Cenotaph, via Queen, Devon and Liardet streets to Pukekura Park. On the way the parade was joined by a contingent of the Cadet Battalion of the New Plymouth Boys' High School. Altogether the muster numbered about 1200 and the marching was a distinctive feature of what was an inspiring display as a tribute to the memory of the Anzacs of two wars. A new touch of effectiveness in the marching was the swing of the skirts of the girls in the various service uniforms. The march past round the sports ground when the parade swung into the park was another inspiring part of the display. The reviewing officer was Colonel H. M. Foster, N.Z.S.C., A.D.C., officer commanding the central military district, who had with him at the saluting base, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Irving, ED., area commander, and Major G. Whitham, area staff officer.

TH, MAY 5, 1943

**FOOD FOR BIRDS
BERRIES IN THE PARK
WILD DUCKS SEEK SANCTUARY**

Tree strawberries and other autumn fruits are drawing many varieties of birds to Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, and now that the shooting season has opened wild ducks are seeking sanctuary there.

Like an orchestra of many players the birds, who have grown sleek and glossy proclaim their joy at the wealth of food autumn has brought to the park. The tree strawberries are a favourite of tuis and bellbirds. About 100 strawberry trees are planted throughout the park and the Brooklands reserve. A mystery surrounds their presence in the park, and it is thought, because of the regular pattern in which they are placed, that a lover of birds planted them with the idea of providing food. Thousands of self-sown strawberry trees have taken root and many have had to be destroyed.

NATIVE PIGEONS.

To attract birds other berrying trees are planted throughout the two reserves. Native pigeons like the large fleshy berries of the miro tree, often mistaken for an English yew. The berries hang like small plums during March and April and

which are now offering the last of their crop. One native pigeon has overcome his fear of the habitations of human beings and become a permanent guest by the kiosk, and the other two were seen there. There are also two pigeons who have found happy home at Brooklands.

The cherry-like puriri berries, which are in fruit for three months, the red coprosma and pukatea, the orange titoki, and the purple myrtle and mangeao berries are other favourites at varying times in the season. Everywhere seeds flung to the earth are growing into small trees which will need careful sorting and elimination. Winter and early spring, until the time when the kowhai trees are full of nectar, is the hungriest period for birds, but a large number of kowhai tree have been planted to ensure a plentiful supply of honey in the spring. Altogether there are about 500 growing in the park and Brooklands with about 50 near Kaimata Street.

FRIENDLY ACTS.

Among other birds common at the park—sparrows, chaffinches, wax eyes, thrushes, blackbirds and a few goldfinches—a fantail and a thrush have proved the most friendly. Every day a fantail visits the fernery and darts about quite unafraid, looking for spiders or inspecting the ferns. In the summer a thrush built a nest over the lip of a puna bowl in which grows a big orchid, and she reared a family of three. The nest could scarcely be distinguished in colour from the bowl but even when it was discovered the thrush was not offended and the orchid was watered daily without disturbing the family. The little thrushes trustingly opened their mouths on the approach of human beings and learned their early flying in the fernery, before they ventured forth into a wider world.

INTUITION OF DUCKS.

The Strange intuition of wild ducks who seek sanctuary at the park when the shooting season opens is a feature of bird life at the reserve. "Every year it is the same," stated a New Plymouth observer to-day. "When the first shot is fired wild ducks come to the park. There are up to 100 ducks there permanently but as soon as the slaughter begins they are joined by others. When the ducks are fed from the kiosk every morning you will see the wild ones holding back in the rush, but they soon learn to go forward with the others. It is really uncanny the way they come; they know that there they will be safe."

TH, MAY 12, 1943

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
FERNERY VISITORS
10,000 IN ONE YEAR**

Ten thousand tickets to the fernery at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, were sold in one year and one week, the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported to the park committee last night. In April 1145 tickets were sold compared with 836 in April, 1942.

After periods of service ranging from 24 to 40 years the rowing boats were in bad condition, said Mr. Horton. One was beyond repair, and two others would cost a good deal to be put in order. It was

estimated by committee members that new would cost about £50 each at present-day prices. Mr. F. Amooore, chairman, and Mr. Horton were appointed to obtain a report from Mr. Horn on the condition of the boats.

Permission to use the park ground on week-days was granted to the New Plymouth Boys' High School. In a letter requesting the use of the ground Mr. G. J. McNaught, principal, said the school ground was not ready for play because of the reconditioning work that had been done. The cricket pitches on the park ground had been top-dressed, said Mr. Horton, and grass seed had been sown on all the bare places.

TH, JUNE 15, 1943

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The purchase of one new boat and the repair of the three others, with a recommendation that the boats should be renewed at the rate of one per year, till they were all renewed, was decided upon by the Pukekura Park Committee at its meeting last night.

The report of the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, stated that the boats had been examined by Mr. Horn who stated that one was beyond repair and the others could be repaired but he could not estimate the cost until they were taken out of the water and dried.

Mr. F. Amooore, chairman, said a new boat would cost about £48, but it would soon pay for itself at the rate of revenue at the present time.

Mr. Horton expressed the view that the petrol restrictions were responsible for more week-end visitors to the park and the greater use of the boats at this time of the year. Last Sunday they earned between £2 and £3. The boats were earning good money, he said, and it seemed difficult to get them out of the water for drying and repairing. He thought that next month there might be a slackening in the patronage that would facilitate the further examination and repair of the three boats in turn.

CLEARING AND PLANTING.

The superintendent reported that a thorough clean-up had been made of the newly-planted forest areas at Brooklands, Kaimata Street and the Fillis Street gully. Where there was room more trees have been planted, and others have been replaced. Altogether 250 trees have been planted this season, including mangeao, totara, white pine, native cedars, towai, rewarewa and kowhai.

Mr. Horton said he had advised on suggested improvements at the grounds of the Boys' High School and also on trees that were dying in the grounds of the Fitzroy School.

Permission was granted to the Boys' High for the use of the sports-ground in the park for playing Association football.

FERNERY AND BOOTS.

Visitors to the fernery at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, for the month of May numbered 1129, being 615 more than in the corresponding month of last year. Boat tickets issued numbered 709, which

was 550 more than for the month of May last year.

TH, JULY 1, 1943
MYSTERY VISITOR
FRIEND OF BIRDS
DEADLY TREE PRUNED

Some mysterious person every year at this season breaks off the branches of a "bird catching" tree in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, so that it cannot flower and trap any birds or insects.

The tree is situated in the Fillis Street native botanic reserve of Pukekura Park and was planted several years ago. Since that time some unknown person has broken the branches every year at about this time to prevent the tree from flowering. The culprit is thought to have been some bird-lover who objects to the presence of the tree because of its danger to birds during its brief flowering season. So far this year the unknown visitor has not called.

There are only two trees of this variety at the park and one of them is 30 to 40 years old and does not flower. This tree is situated on the edge of the lawn near the lower lake in the park and is about 18 feet high. The other tree in the Fillis Street reserve is younger and smaller and is growing healthily, and if it is not damaged this year will flower for the first time.

Known as *Pisonia Brunoniana*, or parapara, the "bird catcher" is a native of New Zealand, New South Wales, Queensland and the Kermadec Islands. In New Zealand it is found near Whangarei, Ngunguru. Great and Little Barrier Islands. Cabbage Bay and East Cape. It is a coastal tree, and, because it will not withstand many degrees of frost, does not grow successfully more than three miles inland or in the South Island.

SMALL BIRDS TRAPPED.

With its large, glossy green leaves the tree is very picturesque, but it is in the flowers that the principle interest is centred. Growing in green clusters they exude a sticky, glutinous substance from the fruit or seed pod, and sometimes small birds get entangled and cannot extricate themselves. Even a native owl has been known to get caught, but the trapped birds are mostly the small variety such as silver-eyes, sparrows and fantails.

Those who have watched the tree closely have observed that most of the birds that come in contact with it manage to free themselves, but often lose a feather or two in their struggles. These birds carry the seed with them and the feathers are ultimately blown and scattered by the wind and so the seed is distributed—nature's way of providing for the future.

The flowering season and the danger to birds lasts for about three weeks. When an article appeared in the Taranaki Herald in 1932 on the "bird catching" tree intense interest was aroused from one end of the country to the other. Scores of letters were received in New Plymouth from naturalists, bird lovers, gardeners, wheat growers, representatives of societies and associations of all sorts, some wanting

seed to grow trees for bird catching purposes and others condemning all and sundry who dared to plant it.

It may be that, as a result of this controversy in New Plymouth, some bird lover determined to take the matter in his or her own hands, which would account for the yearly visits to the Fillis Street reserve and the broken branches of the defenceless "bird catching" tree.

TH, AUGUST 11, 1943
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PARK BOATS.

The new boat at Pukekura Park had been well tested and had already earned enough to pay the interest on its cost, stated the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at a meeting of the park committee in New Plymouth last night. Two other boats had been cleaned, repaired and painted.

INCREASE IN VISITORS.

As the fernery had not been closed this year during its annual overhaul, there had been over 150 extra visitors, reported the superintendent. The total number of visitors for the month was 401, an increase of 170 on the figures for the corresponding month last year.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Correspondence. To Mr. W. Horne thanking him for his generous assistance in supplying a new boat free of cost and asking him if he would make another boat at his convenience.

TH, AUGUST 23, 1943
GATES SMASHED
RAMMED BY A CAR

As the result of a car being driven along the path by the lower lake at Pukekura Park on Saturday night, the Gilbert Street entrance gates are completely smashed.

The car appears to have been driven in at the main entrance on Liardet Street and down through the opening by the lake. It was evidently the intention of the driver to leave the park by the Gilbert Street entrance but in the darkness he apparently did not see the gates or else deliberately rammed them. The crash did not push the gates completely over, but palings were found lying in the road yesterday morning. Several residents were awakened by the noise, which they thought was the report of a gun.

As the driver was unsuccessful in his attempt to enter Gilbert Street, the car was turned round and driven off through the park. The heavy wheel marks were still showing plainly on the border of the path this morning.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 15, 1943
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Further Vandalism Reported At Park
"This vandalism is not confined to New Plymouth, but is occurring all over the country," said the chairman of the Pukekura Park committee, Mr. F. Amooore, at the monthly meeting of the committee last night when referring to damage done in the park.

The superintendent of reserves, Mr. T. Horton, reported that the double gates at the Gilbert Street entrance were broken beyond repair by a car that was driven

into them. More planks were wrenched off the bridge over the Brooklands Lake and bottles were broken on the main drive and strewn from the gates to the Press stand. It was difficult to detect the offenders in spite of diligent watching, Mr. Horton said. The committee decided that because the double gates at the Gilbert Street entrance were rarely used they should not be replaced in the meantime.

The attendance at the fernery during the month was satisfactory and the boats were well patronised, stated Mr. Horton. In August last year 317 people visited the fernery and the total takings were £17 18s 6d. This year there were 577 visitors, an increase of 260, and the total takings were £14 8s 6d. The sum of £9 17s was taken for the hire of the boats in August this year, compared with £3 12s for the corresponding month last year.

Permission was granted the Christian Youth Council to use the park for religious services on Sunday afternoons.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 22, 1943
CHILD DROWNS IN BROOKLANDS LAKE

A finding that Barry Frank Brown, aged four years eight months, was drowned in Brooklands Park lake, New Plymouth, on August 18, the evidence being insufficient to disclose the circumstances in which the child came to be in the lake, was given by the acting coroner, Mr. W. W. Thomson at an adjourned inquest at New Plymouth yesterday. "Nothing can be said which will prevent a recurrence of such an accident," commented Mr. Thomson, "because it is impossible to make rules to prevent children or others from frequenting dangerous places."

Mr. Thomson added that children were naturally fond of going near water and it was very difficult to take any precautions. On the other hand, it was extremely dangerous to allow children to go near a lake without their parents or guardians.

Evidence was given by Marjorie Coombs, aged 19 years, who said that she met two boys on tricycles. One was crying and on questioning them she was told that another child had fallen into the lake. Witness could not see the child's body, so she told another woman what had happened and tried to get help from the caretaker and nearby neighbours. Eventually she found the child's mother, who lived some distance away. On returning to the lake she saw the child's body being removed. The water was clear, but the body had not been visible to her.

Dr. P. C. Davie, who was called to Brooklands, said that when he arrived artificial respiration was being applied to a small boy. Life was extinct and witness said the men using artificial respiration had done all they could for the child. Death was caused by drowning.

Constable T. F. Bould gave evidence of finding the body.

TH, OCTOBER 19, 1943
"MARANUI" GULLY
ADDITION TO BROOKLANDS

Crs. F. J. Hill and L. Sutton were appointed by the New Plymouth Borough Council last night to act with

representatives of the Pukekura Park Committee for the purpose of defining the boundaries of the gully "Maranui" to be transferred to the council as part of the Brooklands area of Pukekura Park.

This gully was bequeathed by the late Mr. T. C. List, subject to Mrs. List's life interest, to the council for recreation purposes. It comprises an area of natural and artificial bush adjoining Brooklands.

Owing to Mrs. List's inability to keep the area in good condition because of labour shortage she has offered to surrender her interest in the area and transfer it to the council. The Park Committee approves of the transfer, which will be made when the boundaries have been agreed upon.

TH, NOVEMBER 10, 1943
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
RHODODENDRONS ADMIRER

"The rhododendrons in the Sanders dell are still flowering profusely and have been greatly admired," said Mr. T. Horton, park superintendent, at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park committee in New Plymouth last night.

During October 700 people visited the fernery, an increase of 324 on the same period last year. There was also a good increase in the number of people using the boats.

The main work at the park at present was the cutting of the lawns and the two cricket pitches, the planting up of beds with annuals and general maintenance. The opening games of the cricket season were played on the sports-ground last Saturday. The terraces had been overhauled and some slips built up.

The superintendent stated that he had consulted with the borough engineer, Mr. R. F. Mainland, concerning the boundary line between Maranui and the park.

TH, NOVEMBER 16, 1943
METEOROLOGICAL STATION
CLOSING.

The meteorological station at Brooklands Park, New Plymouth, is being closed down, according to advice received by the New Plymouth Borough Council from the director of meteorological services. The borough engineer, Mr. R. F. Mainland, reported at last night's monthly meeting that there were 15 Wet days during the month, with 7.86 inches of rain recorded at the filters, and 6.75 inches at Brooklands.

TH, DECEMBER 15, 1943
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Spring and summer planting of the flower beds in Pukekura Park had been completed and there would soon be a good display, the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported to the committee last night. The standard fuchsias were the special feature of the gardens just now. The first 100 begonias were also flowering now and there was every prospect of a great show this season.

The fernery returns for the month were 550 tickets compared with 394 in November last year.

It was left in the hands of the chairman, Mr. F. Amoores, to make inquiries about

timber for seats to replace those that have collapsed in the park and, also to arrange for repairs to the Gilbert Street gate.

TDN, DECEMBER 21, 1943
ACCESS TO MARANUI RESERVE.

To improve access to the proposed Maranui recreation reserve from List Street the New Plymouth Borough

Council last night decided to purchase 3 roods 2 perches of land from the T. C. List estate adjoining the part of "Maranui" to be vested in the council. The decision was made subject to approval of the transaction by the Taranaki Land Sales Committee and the completion of the transaction contemporaneously with the transfer of the part of "Maranui" arranged to be vested in the council for the purposes of a recreation reserve. The purchase price is £100. The erection of fencing on the boundary running in a westerly direction is estimated to cost the council £10.

TH, DECEMBER 22, 1943
HYDRANGEAS AT PARK
HOLIDAY FEATURES
FINE DISPLAY OF BEGONIAS

One of the many attractions at Pukekura Park for the holiday season will be the dell of hydrangeas, most of which are now in flower.

The varied colours of the blooms provide a mass of colour which would be difficult to equal. The park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, said today that the plants were particularly healthy this year and would soon provide a wonderful show. The Belgian hydrangeas, which were very popular last year, are in excellent condition.

Another feature of the park is the standard fuchsias. They are growing near the fernery and will be at their best over Christmas. Some of the flower beds are gay with the brilliant colours of salvia bonfire and celosia but the majority of the beds will not be at their best till mid-January.

Large numbers of visitors are expected to visit the fernery. The begonias are the main attraction and a central stand is massed with blooms ranging from a deep wine to a soft pink. The begonias, together with the brilliant blue of the double lobelia, are well set off by the green background of ferns. For the holiday season begonias which are now in bud will be placed on display.

GENERAL PREPARATIONS.

General preparations at the park are being carried out for the Christmas and New Year period. The paths have been swept and trimmed, the lawns mown and the sports-field cut and rolled. The tea kiosk is being re-painted and an additional boat is to be provided.

The hydrangeas at Brooklands, too, promise a fine display. American pillar roses are the main feature at present. The large pond below Brooklands and the lower and upper lakes in the park are covered with creamy-white, pink and wine water-lilies

1944

The park lost two stalwarts with the deaths of James McLeod and C. E. Bellringer. Charles Bellringer had been a board/committee member since 1916 and James McLeod since 1922. Both men were prominent members of New Plymouth society. Three plots of land in the Maranui gully were officially added to the park. Plots C, D and E on map below.

F. S. Varnham was welcomed back having spent 4 years serving in Egypt but unfortunately a few months later resigned because he was transferred to Gisborne.

LAND SECTIONS THAT MAKE UP BROOKLANDS AND THE MARINUI GULLY



Plot	AREA A.R.P	Year Acquired	From
A	48:2:25	1934	N King
AA	5:1:11	1934	N King
B	1:2:16.87	1935	Council
C	4:1:27.55	1944	List
D	0:2:07.7	1944	Council
E	7:2:13	*1944	List/Wilkinson
F	4:2:22.5	2001	Education Board
G	1:0:28.8	1952	Council
H		1949	Wilkinson
I	0:1:18.43	1952	Council
J		1949	Wilkinson
K	0:1:8.19	1939	Council
L	0:0:29.89	2001	Education Board

* Note. Section marked E was donated in 1934 coming from the List and Wilkinson estates, however, it did not come under the control of the Park Committee until 1944.

TH, JANUARY 6, 1944
FERNERY AND BOAT TAKINGS
PARK POPULAR
INCREASE IN RETURNS

The popularity of Pukekura Park with visitors and residents of New Plymouth is indicated in the increased fernery and boat returns for the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

From April 1, 1943, which is the beginning of the financial year, to December 31, there were 7355 visitors to the fernery, an increase of 2858 on the figures for 1942, which were 4497.

During the Christmas and New Year holidays there were 2090 visitors to the fernery, while in the same period in 1942 there were 1348 visitors.

There was a large increase in the boat returns for the nine monthly period from April to December of last year of 1943. Last year there were 3656 boat passengers compared with 1708 in the same period for 1942.

During this Christmas and New Year 1638 people used the boats while there were only 710 boat passengers for the same period in 1942.

A tribute to the two girls, Misses Evelyn and Noline Lawson, who are in charge of the fernery was paid by Mr. T. Horton, park superintendent, to-day.

The girls do all the planting-up, potting, watering and arranging in the fernery and the only work done by Mr. Horton there is the mixing of the soils.

Many visitors had expressed surprise that the fernery was run so efficiently by two girls, said Mr. Horton. Miss Evelyn Lawson has been working at the fernery for five years and her sister will complete her second year in March.

TH, JANUARY 24, 1944
ATTRACTIVE DISPLAY
PARK FLOWER-BEDS

Flower beds at Pukekura Park and Brooklands, New Plymouth, are providing a colourful sight at present. They will be at their best in about a fortnight.

Outside the fernery many striking colour combinations are making a brilliant show. In one bed bonfire. salvia are just coming into flower and with a border of blue lobelia make a fine display.

One of the most spectacular of the beds has celosia arranged in broad bands of red, yellow and orange. They are now in full bloom. A bed of zinnias provides another splash of colour.

The rich orange and yellow of marigolds are backed by the varying shades of standard fuschias and iresine, an unusual foliage not often seen in New Plymouth.

The fernery is still attracting large numbers of visitors who have been greatly impressed with the splendid show of begonias which are now in full bloom. Although the holiday season is over the fernery averaged around a hundred visitors daily last week and a

large number are expected this week from the bowling tournament.

The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, said to-day that the fernery has been much more popular this year than last year.

The carefully planned colour schemes of the beds at Brooklands will soon make an unusual and beautiful sight. The two most striking beds have borders of marigolds and a centre row of dahlias.

In one bed the dahlias are a deep pink and in the other a rich apricot shade. Beds of celosia and bonfire salvia are also in flower.

FEBRUARY 8, 1944
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. F. Amoores presided and there were also present Messrs. W. F. Short, F. Parker, L. W. Lovell, H. V. McCready, E. Jackson, T. Horton (superintendent) and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

The Chairman advised that he had purchased six seats at the cost of £6 5s. each.

It was reported that the Gilbert Street gates had been repaired by Messrs. N.P. Sash & Door Ltd.

Re Staff. The superintendent made application for the employment of Miss I. Small, Carrington Road to assist him with the work round the flower beds etc. It was resolved that the superintendent be authorised to engage Miss Small at the salary of £1. Per week.

TH, FEBRUARY 9, 1944
AFFECTED BY DROUGHT
PUKEKURA PARK AND
BROOKLANDS

Although the lawns at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, and more especially Brooklands are looking rather parched, the recent drought has not caused any serious damage.

The parks superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, said to-day that although the lawns were still looking very dry the recent rains had freshened them considerably. The lawn in front of the fernery which was very brown now shows signs of fresh growth and with further rain should return to its former greenness.

The sportsfield, which has been used continuously during the past two months for cricket matches, is looking drier than for many years. However, no serious damage has been done to the grass.

In contrast with the two other terraces around the playing field which look very bare the southern terrace is covered with a vivid green grass. Mr. Horton said that this terrace would have been ruined but for this grass, which was planted two years ago. It was brought from South Africa and is called kikuya. The dry weather and hot sunshine do not affect it at all.

The fernery still retains its pleasing coolness and has not been affected by

dry weather. Perhaps not appreciated as much as the begonias, the ferns make a cool and refreshing picture.

The begonias are still proving a great attraction and show no sign of fading. The various flower-beds are still gay with the reds, yellows and oranges of salvia bonfire, zinnias and celosia.

TH, FEBRUARY 18, 1944
SCHOOLS' SPORTS
3500 COMPETITORS
PRIMARY CHILDREN'S DAY

With no championships or trophies to contend for, over 3500 pupils of North Taranaki primary schools took part in their 13th annual sports meeting at Pukekura Park to-day.

The park provided a delightful setting for the children's sports day, and excellent weather assisted those in charge in having events maintained to schedule. The programme provided for 44 events, in all of which as many as five heats were run. This morning's programme was confined largely to individual track and field events, whilst games occupied the whole of this afternoon's programme, the highlight of which was a parade of all the competitors.

EXPERIMENTAL YEAR.

This year's sports meeting was described by the sports secretary, Mr. A. C. Richards, of Omata School, as an experimental one. In previous years entrants contended for championships and trophies, but this year no trophies were being competed for, the children running or jumping purely from the sporting point of view.

Teams' games, for which no less than 428 teams of eight competitors each entered, provide a new aspect of school recreational training. These games, based on the new physical drill scheme, include many spectacular events, involving the use of hoops, balls, wooden rods, and poles.

One of the brightest displays given by children was provided this afternoon during the games, when the whole of the large sports area was occupied by the teams, four heats, each of six or seven teams, being completed at one time. The sports area was specially marked out for these events.

BIG ORGANISATION.

With 4600 entries to arrange in order of events and heats, the teachers responsible for the meeting faced a heavy task, involving many hours of labour since the opening of the school year three weeks ago. Owing to the number of children competing it was decided not to undertake any catering this year, and each child brought his or her own lunch.

Supplementary rations were provided on the grounds by stalls, which did a great turnover in buns, hot pies, sweets and ice creams.

TH, MARCH 15, 1944

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
DECREASE IN ATTENDANCE.**

Since the railway restrictions there has been a great decrease in the attendance at the Park, reported Mr. T. Horton, Superintendent in his report to the Pukekura Park Committee, last night. The number of fernery tickets sold last month was 1209, 358 more than in the same month last year. There were 348 more boat tickets sold for the period.

TH, APRIL 12, 1944

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Pohutukawa and other trees which were planted on an area where previously old pines grew are doing remarkably well, said Mr. T. Horton, Pukekura Park, superintendent at the monthly meeting of the park committee, last night. Many of them are 15 to 20 feet high and very healthy.

This hilltop is now a very fine example of how, in a short time a forest of native and other trees could be grown where there was little else than a few dilapidated pines, Mr. Horton said. It was now an area of the park well worth a visit.

Park Rugby Ground.

The use of Pukekura Park sports ground was granted to the Taranaki Rugby Union by the Pukekura Park committee last night. Owing to its own financial position and present day costs of maintenance the committee could not



James
McLeod
1882-1944

James McLeod who had been a member of the committee since the 5th September 1922.

consider the ground at a reduced rate as requested by the Rugby union. The usual fee of 15 per cent of receipts would be charged.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

The Chairman made reference to the death of the late Hon.

APRIL 13, 1944

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. F. Amoores presided and there were also present Messrs. W. F. Short, F. Parker, C. E. Bellringer, E. King, T. Horton (superintendent) and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

The meeting was held for the purpose of inspecting the Macrocarpa tree at the John Street entrance which the superintendent recommended to have some of the limbs cut off for the purpose of providing fencing posts and also to inspect pine trees at the back of the property of Mrs. M. Dickinson, Brooklands Road which was requested should be cut down.

Both requests were agreed to.

TH, MAY 10, 1944

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PINE TREES REMOVED**

Fifteen pine trees had been removed by the Sash and Door Coy., from the back of Mrs. M. Dickinson's property on the Brooklands Road, the Pukekura Park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported to the committee last night.

There was an attendance of 900 at the fernery during the month, but only 514, boating tickets were sold, wet weather affecting the patronage.

Mr. F. S. Varnham was welcomed back to the committee by the chairman, Mr. F. Amoores.

TH, MAY 10, 1944

**DUCKS' REFUGE
PUKEKURA PARK**

MORE BIRDS THAN USUAL

Pukekura Park is becoming increasingly popular for ducks seeking refuge during the shooting season.

"Rather more ducks have come to the park than usual," said the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, this morning. "They come in groups of seven, eight or nine and are easily detected because of their shyness. When the birds on the lake are fed at 8 O'clock each morning the newcomers hang back while the old-timers scramble for the bread. But after they have had a taste of the bread they soon lose their shyness."

The white heron still comes to the park periodically, continued Mr. Horton, and yesterday a cock pheasant was seen not far from the superintendent's house. Large numbers of tuis and bell-birds are attracted by the fruit on the strawberry trees. Mr. Horton remarked that it was a good thing for the park, which is planted mainly in native trees, that these fruit-bearing trees from abroad were also planted because they were a great draw for these beautiful song birds.

Birds are welcome guests but not so the opossums. They have been very troublesome, Mr. Horton said, and seem to have taken a particular liking to the fleshy leaf-stems of the five-finger (Nothopanax Arboreum). The ground beneath these trees is usually littered with the leaves the opossums have bitten off.

COLOURED LEAVES.

Although calendars show that winter has come, the trees in the park make their own season and for them it is still autumn. The leaves of the cherry trees round the lake have changed to pink and gold and a liquidambar in the rhododendron dell near the fernery has changed to shades of red. The deciduous trees on the hillside near Brooklands are a mixture of russet and gold and the footpath beneath them is covered with leaves and the prickly burs of the Spanish chestnut.

There are few flowers in the park now but the Bonfire salvias near the fernery are as attractive as ever and there are still several hydrangeas blooming.

"We don't propose to make any big plantings of trees this winter," said Mr. Horton. "Most of the planting will be the replacement of plants that have died or are not growing well. Recent plantings of native trees are doing remarkably well, especially the 600 kauris near Brooklands."

The sportsground has been made ready for the Rugby Union and the goal posts will be put up this week. Where parts of the terraces were sinking they have been built up and seats on the terraces have been repaired.

TH, JUNE 14, 1944

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

During the month general maintenance work and boat-repairs had been carried out, reported the parks superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee in New Plymouth last night.

A boundary fence had been erected at Brooklands and a new fence had been placed around part of the sportsground, the posts for which had come from trees felled in the park.

Because the fence at the back of the western terrace was in a dilapidated condition it was proposed to erect a new one as soon as materials were available.

The boundary line at Maranui had been inspected, but no fence was necessary. During the month 642 visits had been made to the fernery, and 522 visitors had used the boats.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

From the Town Clerk advising that: "Whereas the New Plymouth Borough Council having acquired FIRSTLY an area of land (formerly part of Maranui adjoining Pukekura Park) containing 4 acres 1 rood 27.55 perches more or less being Lot 1 on D.P. 6095 being part of section 35A on D.P. 445 part of section 35 Fitzroy District SECONDLY an area of land (formerly part of the Highland's Estate) containing 3 roods 7.7 perches more or less being Lot 2 on D.P. 6095 and being part of Lot 5 on D.P. 4443 part section 49 Fitzroy District and THIRDLY an area of land (formerly part of the Highland's Estate) containing 7 acres 2 roods 13 perches more or less being Lot 2 on D.P. 5439 and being part section 49 Fitzroy District primarily for the purpose of a public plantation and secondly the purposes of recreation ground HEREBY RESOLVES that all the said pieces of land hereinbefore referred to be amalgamated with Pukekura Park and be placed under the control of the Pukekura Park Committee subject to the same conditions of control as apply to Pukekura Park as set out in the Council's resolution of June 17, 1929."

TH, JULY 12, 1944

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

"Since the closing of the park gates at sunset there has been a great deal less vandalism," said Mr. T. Horton, parks superintendent, when reporting to a meeting Of the Pukekura Park Committee in New Plymouth last night, "but some mischief has occurred

recently. Several young trees have been broken down and seats have been thrown into the lake and two padlocks removed from doors."

"Both Brooklands and Pukekura park are looking very well considering the time of year," said Mr. Horton, "but owing to the inclemency of the weather there has not been very much done outside general maintenance work recently."

Mr. F. Amoore said in his report that three new boats had been purchased and had arrived in time to take advantage of the fine weather.

It has been learned that an additional area or bush from what is known as Maranui property has been transferred under the will of the late Mr. T. C. List to the Brooklands area. "This is a valuable addition to the grounds and will make available for all time the continuity of the bush following the gully between Brooklands and Maranui," said Mr. Amoore.

The appreciation of the park and Brooklands by the public of New Plymouth continues to grow and although in wartime it is necessary on account of so many calls on public funds to allow some amenities to suffer from lack of maintenance, the policy of the committee supported by the borough council has been, as far as possible to keep it up to standard.

Thanks were expressed by the chairman to Mr. Horton and his staff for the excellent work done by them.

A credit balance of £17 18s 5d was reported by the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton. Receipts amounted to £3608 0s 11d and payments to £3590 2s 6d.

It was decided that a sports committee should be set up to deal with maintenance and letting of the grounds, Messrs. E. Jackson and H. V. McCready being appointed.

Mr. Amoore was re-elected chairman of the committee.

TH, AUGUST 5, 1944
RESCUED FROM LAKE
BOYS' LIFE SAVED
PROMPT ACT OF SOLDIER

The prompt action of a soldier who is on furlough saved a small boy from drowning in the lower lake at Pukekura Park on Wednesday afternoon.

The boy was some distance from the edge of the lake in water that was much too deep for him to help himself and he was floating on the water when rescued. Gunner W. A. Davidson, who is on furlough from the Pacific, was visiting the park with his wife. When they passed the lower lake earlier they noticed Philip Phillipps, only son of Sergeant and Mrs. P. L. Phillipps, Gilbert Street, New Plymouth, playing near the edge of the water with another young boy. Both children are about 4 years old.

Later in the afternoon Gunner Davidson was at the same spot when a boy approached him and told him that a child

was drowning out in the centre of the lake. Gunner Davidson saw that the child was about 25 yards from the edge, floating on top of the water and lying motionless. He hurriedly made his way, through water that was up to his chest, to where the boy was and brought him ashore.

Mrs. Davidson, who has some knowledge of first aid, applied artificial respiration, and the boy was subsequently taken to his home.

Sergeant Phillipps is well known at New Plymouth and is serving in the Middle East, with the 2nd N.Z.E.F. in reserve motor transport company.

DANGER TO CHILDREN.

A resident of the locality drew attention this morning to the fact that not infrequently inquiries are made for young children who have been missed from their homes, or who have not returned when expected. On some occasions numbers or persons have been involved in searches which have taken a considerable time before a missing child has been found. The resident pointed out that it is not so long ago that a small child was drowned in the upper reaches of the top lake, and he knew of two other instances, apart from the latest one, in which children had been rescued from the water. In addition to the lakes in the park there are danger spots in some of the creeks and culverts through the park, and young children are not always conscious of such dangers.

A suggestion was made in another quarter that there should be a telephone in the park so that assistance could be summoned in any case of emergency.

TH, AUGUST 9, 1944
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
MORE VANDALISM DAMAGE AT
PARK DIFFICULT TO STOP

"Vandalism has broken out at the park again," said Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park committee in New Plymouth last night.

Outlining the damage done, Mr. Horton said that a small bridge, 12 feet by 6 feet, at the far end of the park had had every plank torn off it recently, leaving a running stream, the full width of the road, unprotected. Anyone could have easily stumbled into the stream after dark. The bridge had now been rebuilt.

Discarded beer bottles which were left lying about on the paths and occasionally broken were a great nuisance. Young native trees had also been deliberately broken.

"Ours is not an isolated case. Vandalism is prevalent throughout New Zealand," said Mr. C. E. Bellringer. "The more latitude we allow the worse it will become."

Bands of volunteers used to guard the park night after night, but the vandals seemed to scent them, said the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton.

Mr. Bellringer: If anyone is about there is never any vandalism. We have had the police, but nobody has ever been caught. The Park is so large that it is very difficult to watch all of it.

Mr. F. Amoore: I don't see what we can do to stop it.

Several months ago the park committee decided to lock the main gates after dusk to prevent motor-cars going into the park, but this does not seem to have stopped the trouble.

FERNERY OVERHAULED

During the month the fernery had been partly overhauled and the ladies' rest room painted while beds had been prepared for spring planting and pruning done, said the parks superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park committee last night.

A request for 400 young native trees from the Mayor of Timaru had been granted.

Attendances at the fernery for the month were 437 (401 last July) but there had been little demand for the boats because of wet weather.

It was decided that the section of Maranui which has been handed to the park be inspected.

TH, AUGUST 15, 1944
COMING OF SPRING
PUKEKURA PARK
FLOWERS AT BROOKLANDS

The fresh colours of spring flowers have broken through the brown and green monotony of winter in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.

Across the lake from the tea-house and beyond the scarlet-painted bridge a great wattle leans out over the water, a smother of tiny golden balls. Coming nearer the tree, but still on the opposite side of the lake, the visitor sees the yellow reflected shimmering on the water. Two or three large trees of early rhododendron are also in bower near the lake.

The season is still too young for much colour to be showing in the flower-beds near the fernery. A bed of Iceland poppies and primulas is flowering now but the other beds are either empty or else planted with things that will flower later, such as tulips and ranunculus.

Inside the fernery there is the same state of preparation for a show later on. Primulas are the chief flower at the moment, together with a few orchids and cyclamen. The cinerarias are just starting to open.

BROOKLANDS GAY.

It is at Brooklands that the coming of Spring is most marked. Flanking the gates are clumps of fiery red agave and a short way in a crimson japonica is in full bloom near a red camellia. As a change from these vivid colours, dainty mauve and violet crocuses are pushing through the moss beneath the copper beech and masses of heavy-scented jonquils and golden daffodils form a carpet under the big Spanish chestnut. The bluebells are just beginning to open.

PRUNING THE CHESTNUT.

This morning two gardeners were at work in the chestnut, cutting off branches that were broken in a storm early in the year.

Not far from the chestnut a flowering plum is in full bloom, and a magnolia is covered with numberless downy buds, some of which are already stained with purple where the flowers are coming through.

The flower-beds in Brooklands, like those in the park, are not very attractive yet. They contain a few hyacinths and primulas and there is also a bed of Iceland poppies.

On the way back to the park past the Brooklands lake, the catkins of the alders are just opening, graceful tassels of yellow and dull purple. Farther along the path are several bushes of Christmas Cheer rhododendron covered with soft pink flowers. A few rhododendrons are out in the dell and there is promise of a great splash of colour later on for nearly every shoot appears to be capped with a flower bud.

TH, SEPTEMBER 15, 1944 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING GATE TAKINGS

PARK COMMITTEE'S DECISION

When a request was received from the Star Football Club by the Pukekura Park committee at their monthly meeting on Tuesday night requesting that the committee waive the usual 13 per cent. collection of the gate takings for the recent shield matches it was decided to accede to the request. It was decided, however, that this be done without creating a precedent.

The chairman, Mr. F. Amore, said that the committee's policy should be decided on. "I think we should grant this request but I am afraid it might open the door to many other things."

It was suggested that because many young sports bodies because of lack of members are in a bad financial position the committee should not collect any of the takings.

Mr. Amore said that sports bodies as a whole could not be given the privilege because the committee could not afford it. Each case, he suggested should be considered on its merits.

Mr. L. W. Lovell pointed out that it if privilege was made for one body others would want it.

Mr. C. E. Bellringer then moved that in this special case no money should be collected from the gate takings but a precedent should not be made. This motion was carried.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Mr. Varnham tendered his resignation as the result of being transferred to Gisbourne.

TH, OCTOBER 11, 1944 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING PARK CONDITIONS GOOD.

The condition of the Pukekura Park and Brooklands was good, reported Mr. C. E. Bellringer at a meeting of the Pukekura

Park Committee at New Plymouth last night. He stated that Mr. L. Schonbachler, acting-superintendent in place of, Mr. T. H. Horton, who is in hospital, was achieving very satisfactory results.

TH, NOVEMBER 15, 1944 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

A report on a conference with the North Taranaki Cricket Association regarding the use of the sportsground for this season was given at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee in New Plymouth last night. It was stated the association was to pay £35 for the season for the maintenance of one match and three practice wickets.

A request from the North Taranaki Primary Schools' Association for the use of the sportsground for their annual athletic sports in 1945 was granted.

The parks superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, 'was appointed as delegate to a conference of parks and reserves superintendents to be held in Palmerston North January next.

Messrs. F. Amore (chairman), F. Parker, W. Short and the secretary, P. E. Stainton were, appointed a sub-committee to investigate the increased expenditure on the year's workings.

Messrs. Parker and Short were appointed to investigate the number of ducklings which were being killed by rats. Mr. Amore said that rats and eels had been taking a large toll of the hatchings for many years. Only 10 percent of the ducklings survived. It was pointed out that traps would probably catch other animals as well.

TH, NOVEMBER 30, 1944 READY FOR HOLIDAYS BEGONIAS FLOWERING

Pukekura Park is now being made ready for the Christmas holiday season.

This morning a gang of men were scything the grass on the terraces in the sportsground and at Brooklands the edges of the lawns were being trimmed to give the place an extra tidy appearance. Flower-beds at Brooklands and near the fernery have just been planted with seedlings that will not be in flower for several weeks, but a long border of calendulas beside the pergola near the fernery are in full bloom now and on the pergola itself plants of the rose called Paul's Scarlet Climber are covered with flowers. The only other flowers of any note are azaleas and a few late rhododendrons.

A few begonias are flowering in the fernery and it is expected a good display will be ready for Christmas. Baskets of double blue lobelia are also flowering in the fernery.

The large copper beech is the feature at Brooklands at present. The colour is so dark that at first sight it almost looks black. The graceful lower branches are

weighted down so low with the weight of the leaves that they touch the grass.

A fair number of tuis are in the park at present, apparently attracted by the honey in the flax flowers which are just coming out. Out of the 70 odd ducklings hatched this season only six remain, and five of these are so small that there is a possibility that they may not survive the attacks of water-rats and eels.

TH, DECEMBER 11, 1944 PARKS AND BEACHES HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Pukekura Park is in perfect condition at present and the final touches in preparing it for the holidays were being put on this morning.

"All we hope for now," said a member of the grounds staff who was busy sweeping up leaves from the lawns and paths, "is that there's no wind during the weekend to spoil our work."

Few things are flowering at present but the trees look particularly green and luxuriant, probably because of the wet weather. The strawberry trees are in full bloom, their creamy-white flowers looking like flocks of white butterflies. The main group is near the lower lake but there are scattered specimens in other parts of the park.

The pergola near the fernery makes quite a picture. Paul's Scarlet Climber roses are still flowering on the posts which rise out of solid clumps of the brilliant magenta rock plant, Heeria rosea. On either side are fuchsias, some of them standards.

Begonias are the feature of the fernery. Growing in pots and hanging baskets, some of them are already in full bloom, whilst others are just coming into bud. Double blue lobelia makes a splash of contrasting colour. Two rare plants are flowering now: a bulb called Haemanthus which has flowers with salmon-pink petals and orange stamens, and the insect-eating pitcher-plant, Nepenthes. All the work in the fernery department, including the mixing of the potting soil, which is usually a man's job, is done by three girls.

HYBRID HYDRANGEAS.

On the small lake near the fernery coloured water-lilies are blooming and nearby the hybrid hydrangeas are unfolding their remarkable colours.

Here and there throughout the park the native flax is flowering, and its reddish-brown beak-like flowers are the chief attraction at present for the tuis.

At Brooklands a line of American Pillar roses makes a brilliant patch of colour against the green of trees and lawns.

Though there are few flowers in the park just now it is a very summery place. The sportsground is like a great sun-trap, so hot that the visitor welcomes the shade of the trees where the paths are green tunnels of coolness, slashed here and there with patches of sunlight. Birds

twittering lazily and cicadas rasping shrilly in the sun add to the summery feeling. (In contrast, the note of a lone autumn cricket heard on a recent evening suggests that this is the end, not the beginning, of summer.)

TH, DECEMBER 13, 1944
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Concern for the eastern terrace at Pukekura Park was expressed by Mr. E. Jackson at the monthly meeting of the park board held in New Plymouth last night. Mr. Jackson said that he had noticed the grass was very sparse there and he suggested that if it were manured the banks would be preserved against crumbling. At present it was not liable to crumble, but if the summer proved a dry season he felt something would be needed to bind and hold the earth.

Mr. L. Lovell: I don't think you need worry about a dry season.

Mr. E. King: We couldn't manure it—we have no allocation of manure.

Mr. F. Amoore stated that as there was no immediate danger nothing could be done in the meantime.

The committee expressed appreciation of the work done by the staff in maintaining the park in such splendid condition, and stated that it compared very favourably with other years.

It was regretted that rats had caused the death of most of the young ducklings on the lake, but there appeared to be no way of eliminating the menace satisfactorily.

Mr. F. Amoore was in the chair.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Motion of Sympathy. The Chairman made feeling reference to the loss that the committee and the community had suffered from the passing on of the late Mr. C. E. Bellringer. Mr. Bellringer had been a continuous member of the



Charles Emanuel Bellringer
 1864 - 1944

committee since September 5, 1916, and had rendered valuable service to the committee during this period of years.

TH, DECEMBER 27, 1944
EXTRA BUSY DAY
HUNDREDS USE BOATS

"Let's go to the park" is a familiar phrase these days when the wartime petrol shortage prevents motorists from going far afield.

Apparently more people than usual thought of "going to the park" yesterday for, according to the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, yesterday was one of the busiest days Pukekura Park has had for a long time.

Apart from visitors who spent the afternoon in the park, picnicking, boating, or walking round looking at the trees and flowers, a large number of people went through on their way to the racecourse.

As usual one of the chief attractions was the main lake where children and adults alike enjoy boating, while others like to sit and watch or to feed the ducks which are ever willing to eat the crumbs children throw to them.

HUGE PASSENGER LIST.

Yesterday the boats were extremely popular, being used by over 500 people, the biggest "passenger list" for a long time. The figures for the holiday period are: Saturday, 30 adults and 100 children; Sunday, 80 and 200; Christmas Day, 100 and 218; and yesterday, 123 and 400.

Next to the lake in popular appeal is the fernery where the ferns are always interesting and where at present the brilliant tuberous begonias are beginning to flower. The number of people who visited the fernery were: Saturday, 60; Sunday, 123; Monday, 140; and yesterday, 213.



Shell Oil Truck in front of the Sportsground Pavilion. Date unknown. (Puke Ariki WD.009805)

1945

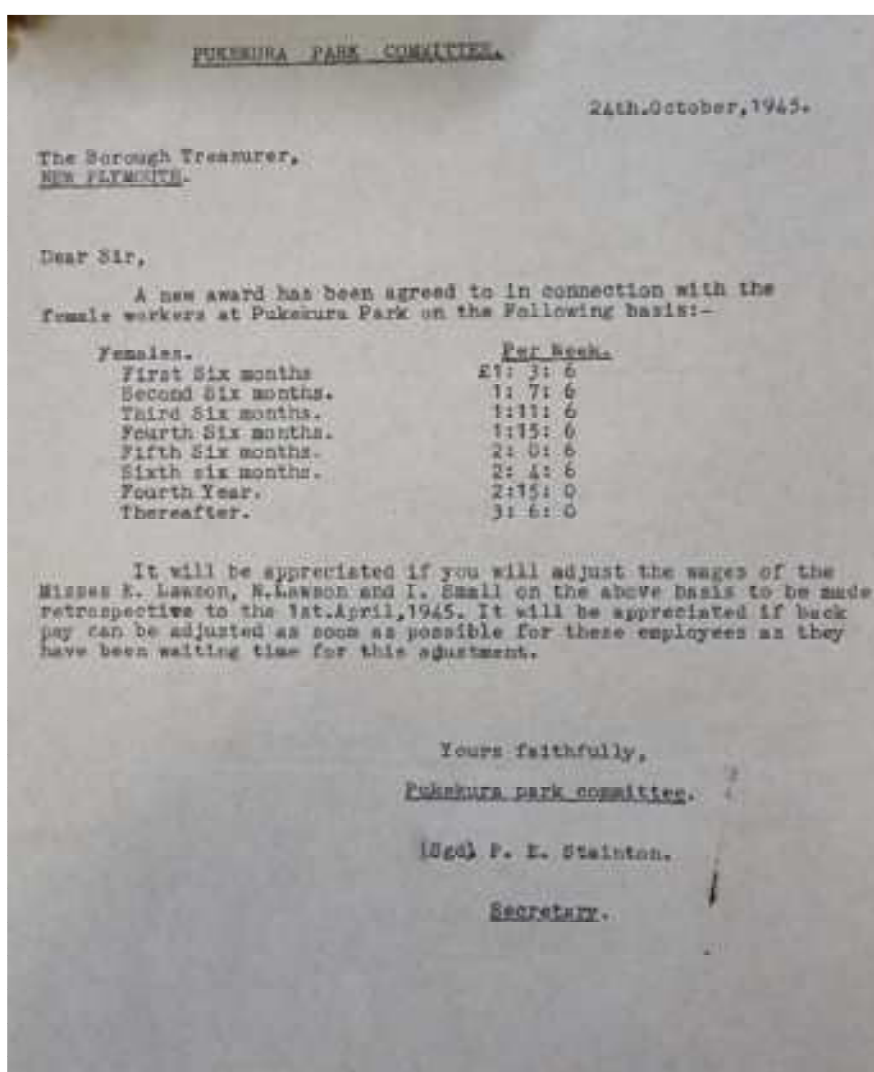
The sections on the corner of Liardet and Gilbert street (currently model railway; "Pukekura Junction") were being used as a dump. Originally a stream in a deep gully ran east to west through the sections, this was filled in over the years. During the war people abused the privilege by dumping types of rubbish that wasn't allowed so it was decided to close it to the public.

The Park Tennis Club tenancy was extended to 1949 but notice was given that they would have to move after that. They were offered a site at Brooklands big enough for 8 courts which would be suitable for hosting North Island Championships but not National Championships which would need 12 courts.

E. Jackson passed away; he had been a committee member since 1934. This meant that three committee members had died in an eighteen-month period.

The sportsground became popular as Mr. Horton stated in one of his monthly reports. "Unusually large numbers of people are using the sportsgrounds in Pukekura Park for training purposes. Athletic sports were held on two evenings every week, and athletes and marching teams used the grounds regularly for practice. All the cricket pitches had been given regular attention and cricketers were appreciative."

New wage agreements were reached. The men were part of a union and a nurserymans award of £5 6s 8d /week plus cost of living bonuses were agreed to for the general park staff. The female staff received considerably less, see letter below outlining their pay grades.



Pukekura Park Female Workers Pay Award 1945
Puke Arika ARC2003-860 NPDC. Community Services. Pukekura Park

TDN, JANUARY 9, 1945

GLOW-WORM CAVE BLOCKED.

Recent heavy rains caused a fall of earth that partly blocked the entrance to the glow-worm caves in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. Bearing two large ponga trees and other growth, the slip caused little damage beyond blocking for a time the steps leading to the park superintendent's house.

TH, FEBRUARY 15, 1945

**UNUSUAL EVENT
LATE DUCK BROODS
PUKEKURA PARK ARRIVALS**

An unusual event has occurred at Pukekura Park this season: two sittings of duck eggs have hatched out during the past few days.

Mostly the ducklings come in October or November, except for an odd batch early in the New Year. An Observer of the habits of the birds in the park said this morning that he has never known the eggs to hatch out as late as this. One brood' Originally numbered 12, but has already been reduced to six; the other consists of three.

Altogether some 120 ducklings have hatched out this season, said the observer. Of these he expects 15 or 16 will survive, which is more than usual. The ones that hatched out at the normal time are now of such size that they are well able to look after themselves.

This morning the park was very summery. The air was not only warm and still but was throbbing with the sharp "static" of thousands of cicadas.

NOVEL FLOWERING PLANT.

Attracting a lot of attention now are the Spider flowers growing near the tea kiosk. The flower-heads are about six inches high, borne on sturdy plants about two feet high. The flowers at the top are a pretty pink which fades almost to white after a day or two. Known botanically as Cleome, the plant is a recent introduction from the United States where it is ranked as one of the outstanding novelties.

The flower-beds near the fernery are gay with bonfire salvia, zinnias, asters, cannas, and fuchsias. Begonias are still flowering in the fernery.

The approach to Brooklands is especially attractive now because of the white and blue agapanthus blooming on either side. The flower-beds in Brooklands contain cannas, asters, zinnias, dahlias, portulaca and marigolds. Several of the beds are planted with a mixture which makes them much more interesting and at the same time lengthens their season. As a contrast one bed is full of blue butterfly delphiniums.

There is little of note amongst the trees except that the Spanish chestnut tree has a good crop of the prickly burs that contain the embryo chestnuts. The big cream magnolia and one or two scarlet gums are the only trees flowering at Brooklands. In the park some of the paths are sprinkled with fine white petals like confetti the tea-trees are flowering.

TH, MARCH 14, 1945

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
BOAT AND FERNERY FIGURES
PUKEKURA PARK POPULAR**

The boat and fernery figures from Christmas to the end of February were much better than for several years, reported the parks superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee in New Plymouth last night. A total of 4373 boat tickets had been issued and £109 6s 6d collected in cash. Fernery tickets issued were 4946, and £123 13s was collected, the grand totals being 9319 tickets and £232 19s 6d.

The chairman, Mr. F. Amooore, welcomed Mr. Horton back to the meeting after his recent illness.

During his absence, continued Mr. Horton, the staff had taken a keen interest in their work.

SPORTSGROUND.

Schools and cricket club teams had played a good deal of cricket on the sportsground, while almost daily teams of marching girls drilled on the grounds.

"Considering the extent to which the grounds are used and the fact that very little top-dressing and no manure or lime has been used for several years, the grounds are in very fair condition," commented Mr. Horton. "There certainly is deterioration in the grass surfaces, which under the circumstances must be expected; but the surface can be restored to its old condition if during the coming season we are able to procure the necessary material for top-dressing and manuring."

The main paths and principal parts of the park were in fair condition, and Brooklands was in excellent order; but the outlying areas had had to be neglected owing to labour shortage, he concluded.

TDN, APRIL 11, 1945

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Vandalism at Pukekura Park was reported by the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to a meeting of the park committee at New Plymouth last night. Mr. Horton's report stated that a small bridge below the waterfall had been dismantled by vandals. The sides and decking of the bridge were decayed, and the bridge was easily destroyed. The committee decided that the bridge should be made safe, but that no extensive repairs should be undertaken. Mr. Horton's report also stated that repairs had to be made to the park's conveniences which had been damaged by vandals.

MORE VISITORS AT PARK

Many more people visited the Pukekura Park fernery and hired boats on the lake during Easter this year than during Easter, 1944, stated the report of the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to the meeting of the park committee at New Plymouth last night. Tickets sold, with figures for Easter, 1944, shown in parentheses, were: Boats, 561 (302); fernery, 876 (326). Revenue amounted to £35 18s 6d, compared with £15 14s last year.

TH, APRIL 19, 1945

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PUKEKURA PARK USE BY RUGBY
UNION TERMS FOR SEASON**

An application for the use of Pukekura Park sportsground for the coming season by the Taranaki Rugby Union was approved by the park committee at a special meeting yesterday afternoon.

The terms of the arrangement are the same as for last season, namely payment by the union of 15 per cent. of the gross gate takings.

A reservation is made that the committee shall have the right to claim the use of the ground on any two Saturdays during the season for any special purposes for which the committee may require it.

An application for the use of the ground on Saturday for a match between the New Plymouth and Stratford A.T.C had to be declined as the playing area is being resown in patches and the ground will not be ready until early next month.

THIRD SEASON.

this Will be the third season the Rugby has had to be played on the Pukekura Park sportsground instead of Rugby Park. It was at the end of July in the 1943 season that the Rugby Park ground became waterlogged and unfit for play and So for the remainder or that season and for the whole or the last season the games were transferred to Pukekura Park where they will also be played this year, with the exception that the No.2 ground at Rugby Park will be available this season for some of the lower grade competition matches.

TH, JUNE 12, 1945

KAPONGA WOMAN DROWNED

The body of Mrs. Agnes Minnie McKenzie, of Kaponga, was found in the big lake in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, about 8 o'clock this morning. Medical assistance was obtained, but Mrs. McKenzie was dead when the doctor arrived.

Mr. W. A. McKenzie, who is headmaster of the Kaponga school, and his wife were staying with Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Hughson, junior, of Brooklands Road. Mrs. McKenzie, who has not enjoyed the best of health recently, appeared particularly well last night. When the family rose at about 7 o'clock this morning, however, it was found she had left the house. A search was immediately made, with the result that her body was found floating in the main lake just above the bridge. Dr. G. H. Thomson was called, but he could only pronounce life extinct.

Mrs. McKenzie was 42 years of age.

There is one son aged 10 years.

An inquest will be opened for the formal evidence of identification and then will be adjourned sine die.

TDN, JUNE 13, 1945

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
GILBERT ST. RUBBISH DUMP TO BE
CLOSED**

On the recommendation of the Pukekura Park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, the Pukekura Park committee at a meeting at

New Plymouth last night agreed that the section on the corner of Gilbert and Liardet Streets, which has been used for a rubbish dump, should be closed to the general public. It was suggested that when the section had been filled in and covered with topsoil shrubs or trees should be planted.

In his opinion, the time had come when it would be advisable to fence off the entrance to the dump, stated Mr. Horton in his report. The area was fairly well filled in now, and people were abusing the privilege they had had of depositing their rubbish there. The conditions on the notice board that had been erected were being disregarded, and objectionable matter was being deposited anywhere on the section.

If at any time the committee wished to top the section off with soil or clay the New Plymouth borough engineer, Mr. R. F. Mainland, could materially assist the committee. Mr. Mainland agreed that the section should be closed, Mr. Horton said.

**TH, JULY 11, 1945
FERNERY DAMAGED**

VANDALS AT PUKEKURA PARK

Hearing the crash of breaking glass in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, at about 5 O'clock on Sunday afternoon, July 1, he and some other members of the park staff immediately hurried to the fernery, stated the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at a meeting of the park committee yesterday afternoon. They found that the two padlocks on the door, which had been locked because of the annual overhaul, had been forced. The intruders had tampered with the patent ventilating gear in the begonia house, two bars and two sashes had been destroyed, and about 20 panes of new glass had been broken. Repairs had since been carried out by the staff, and were finished yesterday.

The chairman, Mr. F. Amooore. This vandalism is certainly not getting any better.

Mr. P. E. Stainton: There seems to be so much irresponsibility these days. It is a pity that these people don't have some civic pride.

Mr. Horton: Other parks in the country are having the same trouble.

The overhaul of the fernery has been completed and the fernery is again open to visitors, although the begonia house is still closed. Pruning and other seasonal work is being attended to.

Slippery and dangerous paths at Pukekura Park were shingled last month, reported the superintendent. Boats were cleaned and repainted.

**TH, AUGUST 15, 1945
PARK TENNIS CLUB
PLANS FOR EXPANSION
CHAMPIONSHIP COURTS**

With the return to peace conditions and a consequent expected boom in sport, the Park Tennis Club is considering a policy of expansion which will make New Plymouth an eligible venue for North Island championships and possibly New Zealand championships.

Their plans are hastened by the fact that they may have to vacate their present courts at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, within the next few years, and to obtain some guidance for their future actions, a deputation representing the club met members of the Pukekura Park committee yesterday afternoon.

When the Park committee first advised the club in July, 1939, that the area occupied by the club's four courts, as well as the Park Croquet Club's greens, would be required within the five or six years for a nursery, club members regarded it with some concern and there was some doubt whether the club could continue. The war, however, temporarily delayed the park committee's plans and gave the club more time to consider what action could be taken.

Now, with the return to peace, the removal of the courts has again cropped up and the club, the largest in Taranaki, is considering whether to go to an area at Brooklands offered by the park committee where eight courts could be made—sufficient for North Island championships—or whether to reconstitute the club entirely and find another area where the 12 courts necessary to hold New Zealand championships could be formed.

The president of the club, Mr. E. R. McKeon, who led the deputation, explained to the park committee yesterday that the club had in mind the laying down of both hard and grass courts; hard courts because they were the best for Taranaki conditions, and grass courts because they were necessary for championship play.

RESURFACING NECESSARY.

The club's present courts, he said, were now in such a state that resurfacing at a cost of £150, was necessary, but as this work would make the courts good for another five years, the club wanted to know how long they could rely on having possession.

Referring to the club's ultimate removal, Mr. McKeon said the club also wanted to know what assistance they could expect if they formed courts on the Brooklands site so that they could decide whether or not it would be preferable to go somewhere where more courts could be obtained.

As there was not a quorum present, the committee could give no definite reply on either of these points, but the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, explained that, apart from making the area at Brooklands available and levelling the site, the committee undertook no financial responsibility.

The chairman gave his personal opinion that the club could expect to hold the present courts for several years yet, but until the committee met there could be no final decision. He pointed out that if it had not been for the war the park would have already taken over the area.

The club was requested to submit their requests in writing for the consideration of the board.

TH, AUGUST 23, 1945

**SPRING'S ARRIVAL
SIGNS AT PUKEKURA PARK
PLANTS STARTING TO GROW**

Signs of spring's arrival are now appearing in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.

So far there are few flowers showing, but the plants and trees are preparing for the spring display. Near the fernery, tulips are well above the ground. Inside the fernery, primulas are flowering, and cinerarias are in bud. They should be in full bloom in about three weeks' time.

A few early rhododendrons are blooming, near the tea house, where there are some big specimens of Sir Robert Peel, and in the Rhododendron Dell, where the chief attractions are Cornubia and arboreum rubrum. The kowhais around the dell are laden with buds just turning yellow, promise of a honied treat for tuis, a few of which could be heard to-day.

A bed of anemones in full bloom catches the eye of the visitor to Brooklands where most of the flower beds are like those in the park, getting ready for a late show of colour. The white jonquils under the 90 year-old Spanish chestnut are in full bloom now and their scent is heavy on the air. Colour is just beginning to show in the buds on the nearby magnolia: But most of the other trees are still quite dormant.

In many private gardens spring growth appears to be unusually far advanced, but a member of the park staff said this morning that at the park it seemed to be later than usual.

**TDN, SEPTEMBER 12, 1945
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE EXTENDS TENNIS
CLUB TENANCY**

The Pukekura Park Tennis and Croquet Club's tenancy of its present site has been extended to March 31, 1949, it was reported at a meeting of the Pukekura Park committee at New Plymouth last night. The club has also been informed that the committee has no site to offer the club other than the one already offered at Brooklands.

Boat tickets sold in August totalled 678, compared with 187 for the same month last year, reported the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. A small 14-foot bridge near the swings had collapsed and was being rebuilt. A number of hydrangea plants and cuttings, with other plants, was supplied to the borough engineer's department for planting in the borough.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Vote of Condolence. The Chairman made reference to the death of the late Mr. E. Jackson, who had been a member of the committee since November, 1934.

**TDN, OCTOBER 8, 1945
SPLASHES OF COLOUR**

MANY INTERESTING FEATURES

Welcome relief from the all-green of Pukekura Park's winter appearance is the splashes of colour lent to the scene at present by the cherry blossoms and azaleas which are interspersed amongst the tree ferns around the upper lake.

The rhododendrons are still flowering but have passed their prime. The camelias, in some cases, add a still brighter note to the driveway. This morning when a Taranaki Herald representative visited the park there was an atmosphere of extreme quiet. The boats were not being used on the lake, so the opportunity has been taken by the authority to paint and generally repair them. Despite a misty rain that was falling at that time Mount Egmont, with its heavy coat of snow, was clearly visible behind Poet's Bridge.

The ducklings are beginning to be hatched out now, being much later than last year. So far only two broods have been seen. The first brood of 10 has been on the lake for about a fortnight, and as usual has suffered some casualties until to-day they numbered only five. Rats were probably responsible, it was stated, but eels also took their toll.

Some, when they got separated from their mother, were unable to find her again and perished that way. This morning a new brood of nine were out.

It is unfortunate that such losses should occur, but it was estimated that 90 per cent. perished nearly every year on all such lakes in New Zealand. Last year New Plymouth did a little better than that and 15 out of about 100 ducklings survived.

With the kowhai flowering season over the many tuis and bellbirds seem to have gone from the bush and their pleasant calls are missed. They are both honey feeding birds. Yesterday, however, a shining cuckoo was heard in the park. These little birds are very pretty but they stay in the bush and are rarely seen. Their singing is easily recognisable and adds pleasure to a visit to the park.

The fernery is a riot of colour now. The multi-coloured cinnerias, especially blended to produce an eye-pleasing result, are the crowning glory. As a relief beautiful orchids in rare shades top the display. Also around the sides are primula obsconica, and lady's slipper orchids. In the main fernery a centre stand of these orchids has also been arranged.

Outside the tulip beds are still evoking much admiration. They were slightly damaged by the recent storm, but still providing a wonderful display. One of the beds is outlined in dainty primula malacoides, and the other has the blue forget-me-nots around it. Beds of gleaming marigolds complete the picture. Visitors are always advised to wait until about Christmas to see the park at its best, it was stated this morning, but it would be a great pity for them not to see the present showing.

TDN, OCTOBER 10, 1945 TREES AND CRICKETERS.

Shadows thrown by certain trees towards the evening trouble cricketers using the Pukekura Park sportsground at New Plymouth. At the suggestion of Mr. G. L. Ewart the executive of the northern division of the Taranaki Cricket Association decided last night to ask for the removal or lowering of a pohutukawa near the main entrances.

The chairman, Mr. P. R. Sheppard, said some of the trees on the hill also affected the light under certain conditions.

TH, NOVEMBER 14, 1945 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING ALTERATIONS TO TEA HOUSE

Because 700 teas were served in one day at the tea kiosk in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, the Park Committee decided at a meeting in New Plymouth yesterday that the kitchen needed enlarging.

Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour said the work had to be done, if possible before Christmas. The park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, said sometimes the kiosk's doors had to be closed to keep the crowd out.

The chairman and Mr. Horton were asked to arrange for the removal of a pohutukawa tree at the main gates, following a request from the Taranaki Cricket Association, who said the tree interfered with the play and endangered cricketers.

The demand for the use of the grounds for practice and training had never been so great as it was this year, said Mr. Horton. He reported that an area on the south-west corner of the southern terrace was suitable for accommodating six invalids' chairs. There were 835 fernery tickets and 831 boat tickets issued last month, both figures showing an increase on previous October sales.

Mr. Horton was appointed a delegate to a conference of park superintendents to be held in Timaru next February.

DEVELOPING PARK FINANCE A BARRIER COMMITTEE'S POSITION

Although the Pukekura Park committee wanted to develop and improve the park, it was hampered by lack of finance, said the chairman, Mr. F. Amooore, in New Plymouth yesterday.

He explained that the Borough council allocated a £1600 subsidy each year to the committee. Other revenue came from the boats, the fernery and rents. "It is necessary to spend this in maintenance and other work, and the amount barely covers these needs," continued Mr. Amooore. "At present we are working from hand to mouth."

Several people have commented recently that the Park is going back. The staff is not nearly up to the pre-war level yet. According to the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton "the staff is the minimum we can do with."

He pointed out to a meeting of the committee that the increased wages and the high cost of tools and all material required for maintenance purposes it was absolutely impossible to live within the committee's income or anything like it.

"I am Very worried about it," he continued. "Nothing is procured but what is essential." He reported that wages adjustments had been made and back pay had cost nearly £120.

At October 31 there was a debit balance of £561 16s, reported the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton. There was £250 due from the subsidy.

TDN, DECEMBER 12, 1945 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING MANY PERSONS USE PARK FOR TRAINING

Unusually large numbers of people are using the sportsgrounds in Pukekura Park for training purposes, said the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, in his report to the park committee at New Plymouth yesterday. Athletic sports were held on two evenings every week, and athletes and marching teams used the grounds regularly for practice. All the cricket pitches had been given regular attention and cricketers were appreciative.

A request by the Tukapa Rugby Football Club for use of the sportsground on Easter Saturday was granted. The club proposes to hold a jubilee procession, Permission to hold a Christmas recital in the park was granted the New Plymouth Salvation Army.

TDN, DECEMBER 29, 1945 FINE SHOW OF BEGONIAS

The soothing restlessness of gently stirring leaves and birds chirping contentedly, people idling along sun-flecked paths and pausing now and then to watch ducks or boats on the lake, these were the quiet pleasures of New Plymouth's Pukekura Park to-day.

At this time of the year there are few flowers in the park, a symphony of green forms an interlude between the gay notes of spring and the colourful harmonies yet to come. Round the lakes the only flowers noticeable now are the creamy bracts of strawberry trees, looking like drifts of native clematis.

Near the fernery the all-pervading green is broken by the brilliant magenta of Heeria rosea, a rock plant that is flourishing on the punga banks and at the base of the pungas in the pergola. Near the water-lily pond across the lawn from the fernery some of the hydrangeas are flowering.

FINE BEGONIAS.

Some of the finest begonias yet shown at the park are already in bloom and many more are in bud. The display is a credit to the women members of the staff who have done all the work needed to bring the plants to their present perfection. They even mixed the soil for the pots.

Other attractions in the begonia house are: the Haemanthus, an African lily like a giant spider lily; the crotons with their beautifully-coloured leaves; the pitcher-plants, which has three "pitchers"; and the blue lobelia.

The attractions of the Park were, however, not enough to tempt more than a handful of visitors on Boxing Day, which is usually one of the park's very busiest days. No one used the boats on the lake, whereas on Boxing day last year 323 people went on the lake. The fernery, being a place of refuge from the rain, was more popular, but only 58 people went in compared with 208 last year. The figures for the period from Monday till last night, with the figures for the same period last year in brackets, are: fernery, 740 (1300); boats, 503 (887).

1946

The chairman Frank Amoores died in September 1946, and became the fourth committee member to die in 30 months. He had served on the board/committee for 23 years. The four men had served a combined total of almost 85 years' service to the park.

Ivan Waddle returned to the park staff on returning from duty overseas. When he left in 1939, he was told his job would be kept open for him. During his service he had spent some time as a prisoner of war.

A large and apparently healthy macrocarpa tree fell with a terrific crash in dead calm weather at 9.30 p.m. For many years this tree had stood on the bank overlooking the entrance to the glowworm cave, but its roots had been undermined by erosion, and the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, stated that he had been expecting it to fall for 10 years.

Mr. Horton said it had always been the policy of the Pukekura Park committee to remove dangerous trees, but the removal of any trees had invariably provoked a storm of protests from a certain section of the public.

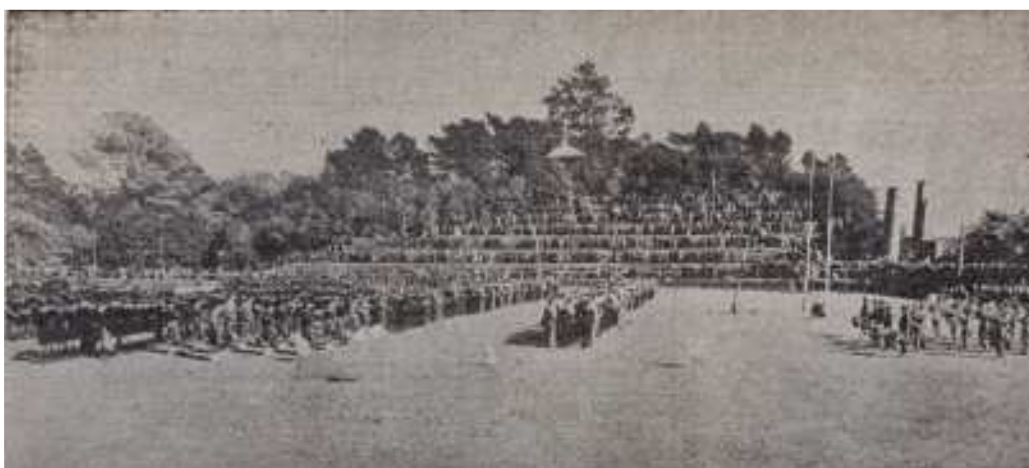
The tree, which was about 80ft high, smashed through a group of other trees and growth and fell across the lawn in front of the old hatchery, completely uprooting a poplar tree 120 feet high and smashing many others, including a beautiful rimu and half a rubber tree (Morton Bay fig). As a further safeguard against any future damage at this spot, three large poplars and two big macrocarpas were removed from the top of the bank. Native trees were planted in the gap made by the felling of trees, which included pohutukawa, kowhai, miro and tree ferns.

Alterations were made to the Tea Kiosk costing £750, which were completed by Messrs. W. J. Cleland & Son Ltd. The kitchen was extended by 10ft, and a new water heating system was installed. A small shop was transferred from the eastern side of the buildings to the back. The alterations were designed to give more space to the kitchen, where small goods were prepared. The enlarged kitchen incorporated a kitchenette, solely for the making of small goods. Except for the shifting of the small shop no alterations were made in the front of the building.

Due to the financial constraints and lack of manpower the park had deteriorated badly during the war. Horton was acutely aware of the need to bring the park back to its former glory before it was too late. Some of the structures were getting so bad that if left much longer without maintenance they would need replacing. To highlight the issues, he assessed all the work required and the cost necessary to get the park into good order. He estimated the park needed almost £3000 spending on it.

Horton's diary note, "December 10, King Abdicated."

Taranaki Herald, August 3, 1946
New Plymouth Boys' High v
Wanganui Collegiate School



Anzac Day Ceremony - *Taranaki Herald*, April 30, 1946

TH, JANUARY 31, 1946

PARK IN BAD STATE

(To the Editor.)

Sir, From time to time the Herald has published articles dealing with the attractions of Pukekura Park. There is another side to the picture which with your permission I present to readers. One wonders when members of the park committee last made an inspection. They will find seats (presented by a Mr. Emeny) which can't be sat upon because they are in such disrepair. They will find the bridge below the waterfall (near the Gilbert Street entrance), a dangerous wreck. They will find the debris of the slip at the glow-worm caves still blocking the entrance after many months. They will find countless dead punga fringing the lakes which punga should have been removed long ago.

They will also find that the park is a thoroughfare for cyclists, child and adult, at any hour of the day and night even to the danger of pedestrians. As for the state of the fernery—I will leave that to the judgment of the more competent. I will go so far as to say that things have never "slipped" at the park as much as at present. Let the citizens go up to the park and have a good look around and form their own opinion. —I am, etc., H.L.

TH, FEBRUARY 13, 1946

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
IMPORTED SOIL
CRICKETERS' SUGGESTION**

"Local soil will not make a good wicket, in fact, the present wicket is almost unsuitable for play," said Mr. G. L. Ewart, representing the North Taranaki Cricket Association, when a deputation consisting of himself and Mr. P. R. Sheppard, waited on the Pukekura Park Board at their meeting in New Plymouth yesterday afternoon.

"Over the years the imported soil has disappeared through Rugby and other sports being played on the ground," Mr. Ewart continued.

The cricket clubs suggested that they import two truck loads of Longburn soil at £15 each, to be used in the spring and autumn if the park staff would see to its upkeep. They hoped to plant the best grass possible in the soil somewhere in the park and then transfer the sods to the wicket.

The chairman of the board, Mr. F. Amooore, told the deputation that he thought the suggestions sound ones and that the association's request would receive sympathetic consideration.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Alterations to Tea Kiosk including new water heating system. A tender of £750 was accepted from Messrs. W. J. Cleland & Son Ltd.

TH, MARCH 13, 1946

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

In his report to the Pukekura Park Committee at New Plymouth yesterday, Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, said that the Pukekura Park sportsground has never been so popular as recently. On two nights weekly there were athletic meetings, the Taranaki Regimental and New Plymouth Municipal Band, and

girls' marching teams drilled there, and cricketers had also been using the ground. In addition the fire brigade had held a full practice with its new engines and equipment without harming the ground.

Fernery tickets sold during February totalled 1944, making the total from the Christmas period to February 28, 6835. Receipts from that source totalled £170 17s 6d. The number of visitors to the fernery for the period was 1889 greater than for the same period last year. The takings from the boats for the same period was £103 18s 6d.

Permission was granted to the New Plymouth High School Old Boys' Rugby Club to use the sportsground on one night a week for practice during the coming season.

DAMAGE AT BROOKLANDS.

One morning recently at 2 a.m., someone drove a car into the main gates at Brooklands and broke off one of the gate posts, and did some other damage, stated Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, in his report to yesterday's meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee at New Plymouth. The car managed to get away undetected, and the damage done had since been repaired.

R.S.A. BOWLING GREEN

The president of the New Plymouth branch of the R.S.A., Mr. H. S. Jones, yesterday waited on the Pukekura Park committee, and explained a proposal to form an R.S.A. bowling club at New Plymouth, subject to the committee approving a lease of a section.

Mr. Jones explained that the proposal to form a bowling club had been raised at the last quarterly meeting, of the association. A search for a site had been made, the association finally selecting a section at the corner of Liardet and Gilbert streets. v After some discussion, the committee expressed willingness to lease the section. Mr. Jones stated that the proposed site was the only section with a central situation, and added that the size of the section was adequate for all the needs of the proposed club, but that a great deal of work would be necessary. The bowling clubs of New Plymouth were assisting the R.S.A. in the proposal because their memberships were in most cases already full.

"They are," said Mr. Jones, "in full agreement and offered all assistance, advice and even the necessary equipment to get the ground started."

"Personally I am fully in favour of the proposal, for it will clean up what is at present an unsightly section," said the chairman, Mr. F. Amooore.

TH, APRIL 10, 1946

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Revenue returns from the boats and the fernery for the past month were the best since 1939, stated the caretaker of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, Mr. T. Horton, at the monthly meeting of the Park Board yesterday.

The amount collected from the fernery was £340 2s, and boats £207 3s, total of £547 5s. The number of persons to visit

the fernery during the past 12 months was 13,606, and 8286 people used the boats in that period.

The ground was in good order for the coming football season, continued Mr. Horton. Athletic clubs and cricket clubs had mainly finished their activities.

He reported that during March the terraces had been cleaned up and that it was hoped shortly to repair some of the seats.

TDN, APRIL 10, 1946

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
FOOTBALL CODES AGREE TO
SHARE GROUND AT PARK -
ARRANGEMENT REACHED AT NEW
PLYMOUTH**

An agreement between the Taranaki Rugby Union and the Taranaki Rugby League to use the Pukekura Park sports ground on alternate Saturdays during the coming football season was agreed to by the Pukekura Park committee at its meeting at New Plymouth yesterday.

The park committee will receive 15 per cent of the gross takings, and the two codes will be responsible for payment of groundsmen for preparing the ground on the day of games and attending to the showers.

The meeting of the park committee was attended by Mr. W. G. Watts on behalf of the union and Mr. R. Fulton on behalf of the league. They explained that their agreement had been reached at a conference on Monday. It had also been agreed between the two codes that if either had a particularly important game it might have the ground for two successive Saturdays. They stated that an amicable policy of give and take had been agreed upon.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

The secretary of the park committee said an application had been received from the Taranaki Football Association for the use of the ground, and it was agreed that if possible the association be granted the ground for one or two important games, but it was pointed out by Mr. Watts that dates in August and September would be difficult.

When Messrs. Watts and Fulton retired the chairman, Mr. F. Amooore, said it was pleasing to find the two codes working so amicably together.

Mr. W. F. Short: The agreement will mean a financial loss to this committee.

Mr. P. E. Stainton: The sports ground is for the use of all sports. I feel that it is in the best interest of sport generally to find the two codes working so well together.

The committee decided to reserve the right to two Saturdays during the season, but Mr. Stainton pointed out that there was little likelihood of this happening.

TDN, APRIL 30, 1946

LARGE MACROCARPA FALLS

A large and apparently healthy macrocarpa tree in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, fell with a terrific crash in dead calm weather at 9.30 p.m. last Wednesday. For many years this tree had stood on the bank overlooking the

entrance to the glowworm caves, but its roots had been undermined by erosion, and the superintendent of reserves, Mr. T. Horton, stated last night that he had been expecting it to fall for 10 years.

Mr. Horton said it had always been the policy of the Pukekura Park committee to remove dangerous trees, but the removal of any trees had invariably provoked a storm of protests from a certain section of the public.

The tree, which was about 80ft high, smashed through a group of other trees and growth and fell across the lawn in front of the old hatchery, completely uprooting a poplar tree 120 feet high and smashing many others, including a beautiful rimu and half a rubber tree.

Mr. Horton plans to have the debris cleared and gradually replanted with native trees and shrubs.

TH, MAY 15, 1946
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
DAMAGE BY RAIN

CONDITION OF PUKEKURA PARK

Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, has not yet recovered from the effects of the deluge of rain mid-April, when considerable scouring was done to paths, flower beds and drains. Although most of the damage is now repaired, several paths have yet to be re-formed and metalled. At the moment they are slippery and dangerous.

These facts were given to the board at its monthly meeting last night by the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton.

In spite of heavy rain on Good Friday and Easter Monday there were more visitors to the park at Easter than last year.

During the month 1877 tickets were sold at the fernery and 298 at the boats. The boat revenue was affected by wet weather.

TH, JUNE 12, 1946
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The sportsground was standing up to the football very well, reported Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of Pukekura Park, in his monthly report to the board yesterday.

It was having a pretty severe thrashing this season. Before the game was played on the King's Birthday over three inches of rain was recorded and the ground was practically under water only three or four hours before the match. Everyone expected to see it cut up very badly, but the water got away well and the ground stood up to the game remarkably well.

May was a poor month for the boats, only 343 tickets being sold. The fernery was much better, 1176 tickets being sold.

The chairman, Mr. F. Amoores, reported that the new extension to the kiosk was proceeding quickly and satisfactorily. He said that the roof had gone on yesterday.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Mr. Waddle returned to work following his time serving overseas.

The superintendent reported that, due to the extension of the kiosk a white pine to

the south of the building needed to be removed.

TDN, JUNE 14, 1946
KIOSK MODIFICATIONS

Slight alterations to the kitchen at the Pukekura Park tea kiosk, New Plymouth, are being effected. The kitchen, which has always been rather small and inconvenient for the work to be done in it, is being extended by about 10 feet. This will make little difference to the exterior appearance of the building, which was originally given to the people of New Plymouth by Mrs. Ann and the late Mr. C. H. Burgess.

TH, JUNE 24, 1946
TREE CLEARED

Within a month, all the damage which was caused by the large macrocarpa tree which recently crashed down from the top of a 30-foot bank in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, should be cleared. This assurance was given to-day by Mr. T. Horton, park superintendent.

At present three men are on the work. When completed the area affected will be replanted in fast growing native trees (including a good block of tree ferns of different varieties), rimu, totara, tarata, and others. Within two years it is expected that the present ugly scar in the bush will be completely hidden.

As a further safeguard against any future damage from this particular spot, three large poplars and two big macrocarpas have been removed from the top of the bank. The logs were sent to New Plymouth, saw-milling firm for timber. One macrocarpa is being cut up into sections and returned to the park for use. Although no further trouble is anticipated from this area, Mr. Horton said that the time was not far distant when the future of practically all the belt of macrocarpa and pines on the top of the slope at the Victoria Road side of the park would have to be reviewed.

THOROUGH INSPECTION
ADVISABLE.

"It will be advisable before long," he said, "to have a thorough inspection made of the big pines and other trees to decide which of them will have to be removed. At present, there is apparently a certain amount of danger of some trees falling."

As a protective measure, when the other trees have been removed the site now occupied by the Pukekura Park Tennis and Croquet Clubs is to be planted in native trees, suitable to shelter the Park from westerly and mountain winds.

The recent fall of the macrocarpa which caused the present damage was spectacular. A big tree, it crashed down onto a large 110-ft poplar, which held for two or three seconds and was then torn out by the roots, leaving a hole 12 feet across and four feet deep in the path. Happening just after 9 o'clock on a calm night, the noise was heard some distance away.

Although some rimus in the path of the falling poplar were completely stripped, two memorial kauris, planted by the late Mr. R. C. Hughes and Mr. F. Amoores, which were also in the danger zone, were

untouched. The poplar finally came to rest within inches of the tree planted by Mr. Hughes.

The late Mr. Hughes was a member of the first Pukekura Park committee, formed at a meeting on April 2, 1929, when the New Plymouth Borough dissolved, after 50 years service, the board of trustees for the park and appointed a committee to control it. Mr. Amoores is chairman of the present Pukekura Park Committee.

TH, JULY 10, 1946
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
NATIVE TREES AT PARK.

Native trees have been planted in the gap made by the felling of trees by the glowworm caves at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, according to the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at a meeting of the park committee. The trees included pohutukawas, kowhais, miros and tree ferns, he said.

TH, AUGUST 19, 1946
KIOSK MODS FINISHED

Changes have been made at the kiosk at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. The small shop has been transferred from the eastern side of the buildings to the back.

Alterations have been going on designed to give more space to the kitchen, where small goods were prepared. When the work is completed the enlarged kitchen will have a kitchenette, solely for the making of small goods, attached. Except for the shifting of the small shop no alterations have been made in the front of the buildings, where the tea room is situated. Because of the weather, the outside wall of the addition to the kitchen has not been plastered, but it is expected that this will be done in the near future. The work is expected to be completed within a fortnight.

Despite the recent heavy rain, no wash-outs or blockages have occurred in the tracks in the park, which, though muddy, are in fair condition for this time of the year.

TH, SEPTEMBER 10, 1946
F. AMOORES FUNERAL
LOVER OF BEAUTY

"He loved beauty and it was to that end that he worked during his life so that beauty might find expression and give pleasure to others," said the Rev. A. M. Niblock, in a tribute to the late Mr. F. Amoores, at a service in St. Mary's Anglican Church, New Plymouth, this morning.

The service was attended by a large number of local body and Government department representatives, and members of the Egmont National Park Board, the Pukekura Park committee and the Taranaki Alpine Club, organisations in which Mr. Amoores took a keen interest during his life. Many beautiful floral tributes were received.

The bearers were Messrs. S. M. Shuttleworth (Valuers' Institute), D. A. Doile, J. M. Bates, S. Bollon (Egmont Lodge), L. W. Lovell (Egmont Park Board) and P. E. Stainton (Pukekura Park committee).

TH, SEPTEMBER 13, 1946

**EEL FISHING
ENEMY OF DUCKLINGS.**

Several schoolboys, still on holiday, spent some time in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, yesterday afternoon endeavouring to catch eels that are so much the enemies of ducklings which hatch out in the lakes every season. Good work was done and some half-dozen eels were caught. One was large enough to be a real menace to the young birds.

TH, SEPTEMBER 17, 1946

**CONTROL OF RESERVES
NEW PLYMOUTH PARKS
SUGGESTED NEW DEPARTMENT**

For the better control of parks and reserves in New Plymouth a suggestion has been made by the works committee of the Borough Council that a reserves department be established. The proposal will be considered at the next monthly meeting of the council.

The plan is that the department would control and manage all park and reserve lands of the borough other than those of which control has been delegated by the council to citizens' committees.

A new standing committee to be termed the reserves committee would administer the reserves department, it was suggested, and, under the control of the borough engineer a superintendent of reserves would be appointed to supervise and advise upon all subjects within the jurisdiction of the reserves committee, with the exception of any relating to Pukekura Park or under control of the Pukekura Park Committee.

Should the plan be adopted, the works committee recommends that, with the exception of areas controlled by citizens' committees, the new department should manage park and reserve lands and domains for the benefit of the public; deal with planting, beautifying and maintaining street corner open spaces and the planting of trees in streets; control and plant other lands vested as the council may direct; make available to any citizens' committee the services of the superintendent of reserves and his staff; deal with maintenance of playing areas in any of the parks other than Pukekura Park; deal with band recitals in the borough; control open-air sports and recreation in the borough; administer all by-laws of the council affecting the control of the committee.

At the moment Mr. T. Horton holds the position of superintendent of reserves and curator of Pukekura Park. As superintendent or reserves his duties are: To act in an advisory capacity to the council about laying out new parks or the improvement or development of existing parks, domains or reserves owned or controlled by the council, inclusive or the Paritutu Centennial Park; to prepare when directed schemes for the lay-out, improvement and development of parks, reserves, domains and open spaces owned or controlled by the council; to

advise the council upon tree planting in streets; when specifically requested to supervise the work of laying out and developing parks, reserves, domains and open spaces owned or controlled by the council.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 18, 1946
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
DAMAGE TO PUKEKURA PARK**

The excessive rainfall in the last two months had severely handicapped work at Pukekura Park, stated Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, at a meeting of the committee in New Plymouth yesterday.

The rain had so softened and soaked the park that all the paths had been badly cut up and there was more mud than he had ever seen. Some of the paths had to be entirely re-formed and others had now been repaired by the purchase of shingle and metal. Repairs had been done to two or three of the smaller bridges.

The fernery had been completely overhauled. Tickets sold, since July totalled 735. Because of the bad weather boating had been seriously affected. Tickets sold numbered only 195.

**TH, OCTOBER 9, 1946
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
REPORT TO COMMITTEE**

"Despite the criticism that has been levelled against the ground. I think that it will be in a better condition this year than it has been in past years," stated Mr. T. Horton, superintendent, at yesterday's meeting in New Plymouth of the Pukekura Park Committee, in discussing Pukekura Park sportsground.

In the report presented to the committee, Mr. Horton said that the soil for top-dressing the cricket pitches had been received and this had enabled the completion of preparations for the centre and practice cricket wickets.

There was now every prospect of having very good wickets this season, Mr. Horton continued. Top dressing of the sports ground had been completed and the grass cut and rolled. The ground would be prepared for the Labour Day sports at the end of the month.

On wet days, seats and boats were being repainted. All other work had consisted of general maintenance. A total of 592 fernery tickets had been sold, an increase of 60 over the same period last year.

An application from the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club for the use of the sportsground for a weekly sports meeting and training periods for the 1946-47 season under the usual conditions was granted.

FIVE YEAR PLAN.

Mr. Horton, superintendent, is to prepare a five-year plan of repairs and renewals for Pukekura Park and Brooklands to be placed before the next meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee. Mr. Horton introduced the subject at meeting of the committee yesterday afternoon and members were unanimous that a comprehensive report should be

prepared. Mr. Horton pointed out that a good deal of expenditure would be necessary, but said that if many things were not attended to in the near future the eventual cost might be considerably higher.

**TH, NOVEMBER 13, 1946
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

Stating that the Cricket Association had approached him regarding the provision of four more practice wickets, Mr. T. Horton, park superintendent, reported to yesterday's monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee that these had been prepared. This gave the association eight practice wickets.

In addition to the main centre wickets, there were two each for the high school and primary schools, and also a further wicket for the association until the main wicket was ready for use. He reported that for the groundsman to maintain these 15 pitches in playable condition necessitated putting in a good deal of extra time.

A considerable amount of repair work had been done to seats and bridges and some paths had been reformed with shingle. On October 21 vandals destroyed the lock on the yard gate and forced the lock and fastening to the lower potting shed. The staff dressing room had been entered and the intruders Apparently used the electric facilities for cooking eggs.

The fernery attendance for the month had been very good, 933 tickets having been sold. A total of 530 boat tickets had been sold in the same period.

A request from the New Plymouth Boys' High School for the use of two wickets on the park on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, beginning this month, was granted.

Pointing out in a letter that information was constantly being sought by people visiting the park, Mr. F. B. Butler, secretary of the New Plymouth Historical Society, requested that a suitably inscribed tablet or board be placed on the chimney piece and oven at Brooklands. Members agreed that this would be done.

A letter was received from the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club requesting the full use of the ground on a date midway through February. The letter stated that the club had been granted the West Coast (North Island) Centre championships, for the 1946-47 season. It was left to the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, to approach the Cricket Association with a view to coming to some suitable arrangement.

Mr. Horton submitted a schedule of works which he suggested should be carried out in the park, amounting to approximately £2925. The committee decided that they should make a tour of inspection of the park in company with the superintendent to ascertain what was necessary to be done.

During the war the Park deteriorated because of the lack of manpower. Horton gave his assessment of what was needed to restore the Parks esteem. Below is the letter he sent to the chairman of the Park Board.

Pukekura Park,
Nov. 1946.
The Chairman,
Pukekura Park Board.

Dear Sir,

Realising the deterioration that is rapidly going on in this Park and Brooklands, I desire to draw your attention to some the most urgent work that requires doing. The fact is, that practically all the work is more or less urgent and as there is so much requiring attention, I suggest the most urgent be put in hand as early as possible, (say during 1947) and the balance might be spread over a period of say 4 or 5 years.

The time to complete the whole of the improvements suggested, will of course depend on the amount of money and labour available. Very serious further deterioration will take place, in fact several of the buildings will become useless, if neglected for a longer period.

During the war years practically nothing was spent on the maintenance of buildings and permanent structures, and prior to the war, the annual monetary grant from the Council was too small for the satisfactory maintenance of such buildings etc.

I know that to carry out my recommendations it will require a large sum of money, but I feel it to be my duty to draw your attention to the matter, and after all, (no matter what the cost) Is Pukekura not worth it?

The Park has a reputation far beyond our own country. If we are to maintain that reputation it will be necessary to carry out the works suggested and when these are all completed, an increased staff will be essential to maintain it as it should be maintained. We have always worked with too small a staff and much maintenance and improvements that should have been done, have simply had to be left undone. The war and the shortage of permanent labour, has to an extent contributed to the deterioration referred to. There is sufficient repair work to keep a handy man, such as a rough carpenter and painter, permanently on the staff. When there is a bush and forest area of the Park and the parts where pines and other exotics are growing that should have regular attention, requiring the services of two more men.

If the staff could be increased by these three men, then the whole park could and would be maintained much more efficiently than hitherto.

First of all are the houses and other buildings.

A. The Superintendents house. This requires two coats of paint and new spouting and a little interior painting. Wood, tool shed and gates also require painting. Estimate of cost £55

B. House at Brooklands known as The Bungalow. House, shed and gates all require painting and new spouting, new flushing and lavatory outfit. £60

C. The Gables. This being a very old building and minor repairs only having been done over the past 15 years, requires a very extensive overhaul. Some floor joists have decayed, some weather boards require replacing, windows and doors adjusting, chimney and fireplace must have some attention. The roof leaks badly in places and the house, shed and gate requires 3 coats of Paint. £250

D. Brooklands. The implement shed, office lavatories and gates require painting, at least two coats. £50

E. Pukekura. The Pavilion in the Sports ground requires painting and new spouting, boiler room put in better condition and the concrete floor re-surfaced. £35

F. Reporters room, ticket Boxes. Railing around the playing area and gates require painting very badly. £50

G. The Engine and Implement shed. Much of the iron is decaying, new iron required and the shed thoroughly overhauled. £15

H. Band Rotunda. This badly requires painting and roof inspected for leaks in the iron. £25

I. Mens Lavatories. These are in a deplorable condition and I suggest that a new building is absolutely necessary. I can't enumerate all the details of their deterioration and unsuitability but advise you to inspect them. Cost £250

J. The staff room and tool sheds. A new site should be found for this building. The position of the present building is very damp, being under large trees and close to the foot of a hill. Nothing can be kept dry during winter months, and tools get rusty and deteriorate and mens clothing kept there for changes etc., are practically always damp. Cost at least £200

K. The Ladies Rest Room and Office. These require a complete overhaul, new spouting and painting. £60

L. Fernery Conservatory Begonia and Propagating Houses. These comprise a group of six glass houses with two potting-sheds attached. These require a complete overhaul. There are many leaks and some broken glass, ventilators are in bad order and all the houses require at least two coats of paint. These buildings have not been repainted since their construction 19 or 20 years ago. Rough estimate £250

M. Superintendent's Office. For many years a small room attached to the Ladies Rest Room has been used for this purpose. This is situated in a very shady and damp position and all books, papers and records, are perpetually damp and mouldy and many books are absolutely ruined. In spite of using a small radiator during the winter and wettest periods, it is most unhealthy and unsuitable. I suggest that provision be made as early as possible for a new office. Probable cost £100

N. The Boat House. The present house is beyond repair and a new building is definitely necessary. The late chairman and myself went into this matter some time ago and we agreed that something was urgently required to be done to provide better accommodation for the boats. but on account of the shortage of material and high cost of labour, it was decided to leave the matter in abeyance for a time. This may cost about £150

This brings us to the latest of the buildings in the Park.
There are several other jobs I wish to draw your attention to.

1. The Pillions at the Main entrance and the wall in Fillis St., are getting smutty and black and should be cleaned and re-surfaced, and the doors or gates in this wall badly require painting. The Main gates require painting too. The iron work has all been cleaned and prepared ready for this to be done. Say £35

2. The Main Drive and parking area is beginning to break up and should be re-surfaced and put in good condition. Approx. cost £25

3. Terrace seating needs attention. Many new blocks are required to replace those decaying, and broken seats must be renewed. Cost £30

4. The Poet Bridge. As you know the framework of this bridge is constructed of steel. This steel work in many parts has rusted and corroded. This requires to be removed and cleaned off, preparatory to treating with a coat of material for the purpose, and then the whole bridge painting with two coats of paint. If this is well and faithfully done, it should maintain the bridge for many years in good condition. Approx. cost £60 to £80

5. The Boat—Shed Bridge. This is the smaller bridge by the boat shed. This has been partly repaired, but requires further strengthening and painting two coats. £25

6. Brooklands Lake. This requires another clean out. Rushes have grown and developed there to an incredible extent and should be removed. The foot—bridge over this lake has been torn or pulled to pieces by vandals and what bit of framework is left is decaying. I do not recommend its re-construction, as it served no very useful purpose and would be very expensive. £100

7. The main Lake. The streams, (one from the Highlands and one from the Brooklands Road areas) that feed this lake have brought down such large quantities of silt since the lake was last cleaned out, that it is almost filling up the water ways and the upper reaches of the lake. It is one of the most serious problems we have to contend with.

The dam constructed to trap the silt at the Brooklands Road end, is not capable of holding it back. The water after heavy flood rains comes in with such a rush from the Vogeltown and Brooklands Road areas, that although the dam catches a good deal the silt, the bulk of it is carried into the lake and deposited there.

This deposit has got to be removed sooner or later or the trouble will extend and it will be more difficult to contend with. There must be at least a thousand yards of silt already there.

I think the removal of this is too big a job altogether for men and barrows and that machinery will be necessary to remove it. The undertaking is altogether too big for our own staff to attempt and as I think it requires the services an Engineer. I suggest that the Borough Council be asked to allow their Engineer to report on the work or perhaps to undertake it. £500

8. Fences gates and Park Entrances. There are approximately 4 to 4 ½ miles of post and wire fencing around the boundaries and various other parts of the Park. Hundreds of battens require replacing, some posts and strainers renewed and wires tightened up. There are 27 gates or other entrances to the park and must be kept in good order and condition. Cost to put in order £40

9. The Fordson Tractor and Mowing Machines are now very old and the periodical cost of repairs to these machines is heavy. I suggest in the not too far distant future, new and modern machinery to replace them be procured. Probably

£500

10. Seats. At least half a dozen new portable seats are required in Pukekura Park. £40

I cannot close this schedule of proposed improvements, without reference to the Pine Trees.

These are Pinus radiata and they are growing old and dangerous. They are nearly all of them over 60 years of age and some are 70 years old and as a result of old age are getting thin and grey in their foliage and as they have practically ceased growing, all the lower branches and many of the higher ones have died, and periodically they break off and fall to the ground and so are a danger to pedestrians.

This variety of pine matures at thirty-five to forty-five years of age and after that they deteriorate. What should be done about them is a matter for you to consider and decide.

I might mention that where any group of Pines have been removed in the Park, there is now growing groups of native and other trees, many of which are permanent, tall growing, sky line conifers. There are all doing remarkably well, and hill tops formerly growing old ragged looking pine trees are now being covered with permanent heavy foliaged and beautiful trees, which ultimately will be the admiration of everybody. After only being planted a few years, many are twenty to thirty feet high.

(signed)

Yours faithfully,
Thomas Horton

Pukekura Park is Taranaki's Traditional Field for International Rugby. - *Taranaki Herald*, June 26, 1946

THE ingredients of that mystical term tradition are common fact and figure; coloured and matured by the passing of time. Taranaki Rugby has a tradition, and one of the brightest shades in its make-up is the record against international sides. It might be fancy, though there are facts and figures as evidence, but that record was in the main built at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.

On this unique playing field Taranaki Rugby teams have played inspired games against the strongest Australian, British and South African touring sides.

International Record

Taranaki's record in international

games at Pukekura Park is:

1894 v. N.S.W.: Won 21-6.

1904 v. Britain: Drew 0-0.

1908 v. Britain: Won 5-0.

1913 v. Australia: Lost 9-11.

1921 v. South Africa: Drew 0-0.

1936 v. Britain: Lost 7-23.

While anarchists were plotting in Milan to murder the King of Greece, striking Scottish miners were losing £630,000 in wages in six weeks, and the Japanese Government was buying 200,000 guns from Austria, Taranaki was preparing to play its first international match at Pukekura Park, on September 1, 1894.

To the delight of 5000 people who crowded round the slippery Recreation Ground, as it was known then, Taranaki beat the tourists 21-6. There was a hailstorm during the match, which was refereed by Mr. Hirschberg, after his name had been drawn out of a hat containing the names of two others, because the appointed referee could not come from Palmerton North.

The New South Wales men came down from Auckland the day before and that night were given a promenade concert at Alexandria Hall, where they distinguished themselves by joining lustily in one of the items, "Mrs. Eneyr 'Awkins."

The Taranaki team was:

Full-back, L. Allen; three-quarters, H. Good, A. Bayly, A. Good; halves, R. B. Lusk, A. Humphries; forwards, Lambie, Pearson, Watson, Hughes, Livingston, Sangster, Wells, wings, W. Bayly, A. George.

THE FOUNDATION.

The Taranaki eight laid the foundation of what was to become typical Taranaki forward tactics. W. Bayly and Lambie were responsible for the opening try. A. Bayly and H. Good scored the next two tries, both of which Humphries failed to convert.

Then came the hail, which drenched everybody and left the field worse than ever. The crowd gave New South Wales a cheer when they scored, and the referee had a quiet talk to Lane and W. Bayly, the opposing wings, about aggressiveness. Dan Hughes, who tipped the scale at 13st. that day, kicked off in the second spell and after a lot of tough forward battering Humphries took a snappy mark and gave the ball to the sure-footed A. Good. Over the bar it went (four points in those days). Lambie scored his second try and right on top of that another try, which Humphries converted. New South Wales managed

to turn a free kick to advantage, but the honours were all with Taranaki.

SURPRISE FOR BRITAIN

In 1904 Bedell-Sivright brought his red-white-and-blue jerseyed team through the country, was intrigued with the Pukekura Park ground, and was surprised when Taranaki drew with the tourists in a scoreless game on Wednesday, August 17.

Bedell-Sivright, who did not play that day, because of an injury, had no time for the two wing-forwards idea.

Nine thousand people managed to get into the Pukekura Park Recreation Ground after picking the food shops to the bone, and put in the time "listening to some nice music discoursed by the town band and several hakas by Morere's troupe of Maoris." Then the rain came—a drizzle at first which soon developed into a steady downpour.

There was a great roar when H. Mynott, the Taranaki captain, led his team out—E. F. Fookes, H. D. Thomson, Stalker, H. L. Abbott, J. Hunter, W. A. Guy, J. Thomas, A. McMinn, F. Glasgow, H. A. Wilson, J. O'Sullivan, W. Glenn, R. Douglas and W. McKay.

THE HARDER IT RAINED.

Taranaki won the toss, "chose the south base," and set to in usual style to try to pound the opposition defence to pieces. The harder they tried the harder it rained. The Taranaki pack had the edge on the Englishmen, but the sodden ground was like a magnet for ball and players.

With a quarter of an hour to go 9000 spectators and 30 players were soaked, not a point had been scored, and Taranaki had lost McMinn's services in the scrum and were working overtime to keep the Englishmen out.

The line remained intact, as the ladies of the Convent were able to testify later

"If Not, Why Not?"

H. J. Mynott was in his nippiest mood in the Taranaki-Anglo-Welsh match at Pukekura Park on July 15, 1908. He broke through a ruck, and raced after, but just too late to stop "Tuan" Jones getting in his kick. A crowd on the line chanted to the chimes of the Post Office clock: "Why not, Mynott? If not, why not?" And the same chant went up every time Mynott shone.

when, having renovated the Taranaki banner, they brought the record up to date from 1896 with needle and silk so that the boys could take it on the trip to Auckland and Thames.

With a guarantee of £300 to meet, the union did well to get £750 out of the gates.

LAST-MINUTE WIN

Never has a touring team marched into such a prepared camp as Taranaki had for Harding's Anglo-Welsh team of 1908. And there was never a more exciting game for a Pukekura Park crowd. Taranaki won in the last five minutes by a converted try to nil.

The southern unions had stolen a good deal of the limelight by upending the tourists, and, Taranaki, jealous of their record, were out to win. Curiously enough, it was on the backs this time that they relied, although the pack included some great forwards.

The province declared a holiday and went to town. There was Rugby fever in the air. Hours before the game was due to start the park was filling up with people and paper bags. It was a grand day, bright and fresh, and the terraces looked a picture.

The Taranaki team was: A. Hardgrave, D. Cameron, E. Dive, C. Sheahan, H. J. Mynott, J. Hunter, J. Colman, T. Sheahan, J. O'Sullivan, H. Rothery, J. D. Crowley, A. Smith, Tamu, H. G. Whittington and M. Cain.

THE GREAT MOMENT.

Play, which hovered a good deal of the time "a little on the British side of half-way," worked to a crescendo and an incident in the last five minutes which was talked about and chewed over for weeks.

The British forwards started a rush which "Whittington the Grafter" stopped, and Hardgrave gave Taranaki the advantage again with a big "boot" down the line. Rothery broke through, but was blocked by Vassall.

The bright young man who described the game that day said: "A lineout follows, and then a marvel. The ball is thrown almost to the middle of the field, and Hunter takes it. He runs and passes to Dive. The British backs seem to be napping, and Dive is able to race them for the line. It looks as though he will be caught, but Cameron comes up fast behind him and is ready to take the ball on. Dive unexpectedly outstrips the British fliers and scores amid the yells of Pakeha and Maori, and the throwing of many hats. Cameron kicks a neat goal. Tarahaki 5, Britain 0."

It was said by the British that when Dive streaked away most of the tourists were gathered about Rothery, who had been laid out. But, as the bright young reporter pointed out with devastating logic, "even if it were correct, the referee had not blown his whistle, and the Englishmen have surely played long enough to play right up to the whistle."

The First Defeat

Five years later, on August 30, 1913, the Taranaki forwards met an Australian team at Pukekura Park and after collaring the lead ten minutes after the second spell had opened (9-8) were outplayed for the rest of the spell and lost 11-9.

The Taranaki team that day was a good one:

Full-back, L. Hill; three-quarters, G. Loveridge, J. McLeod (captain), G. Meuli; five-eighths, S. Cameron, R. Roberts; half-back, C. Brown; wing forward, R. Taylor; forwards, H. Whittington, G. Hawkins, Ward, Prouse, Pini, M. Cain, H. Dewar.

In their usual style the Taranaki forwards hustled the visitors, but the Australian five-eighth caught the whole pack on the wrong foot and went through for a spectacular try. It was 35 minutes before Taranaki equalised, and not until several incidents such as "Whittington, Cain and Taylor carried all before them, including the full-back, who was hurt, and were almost over."

Then Cain, Hawkins, Cain again, Prouse and Whittington all handed before giving to McLeod, who passed to

Roberts, who ran close to the uprights amidst great cheering. Hawkins missed an easy kick, and threw away the points which would have saved defeat.

Australia replied with a try which would have been converted if the ball had not hit the cross-bar and rebounded—so luck broke even. Till the call of time the Taranakians did their fiery best to beat down the defence, but the Australians held a clear advantage.

THE GREATEST TRIUMPH

Undoubtedly Pukekura Park's greatest triumph in international Rugby was the day (July 16, 1921) that Taranaki held the steam-roller Springboks to a draw, neither side scoring.

An individual triumph was that of Mick Cain, who was in the front row, and who played in the previous international game 13 years before almost to the day.

Every Taranaki road and extra trains poured people into the town. When Royal Morkel kicked off for South Africa after Dick Roberts had won the toss and chosen the advantage of the wind and the north end of the ground, there were 12,000 people who had paid over £1000 to watch the 30 men play 90 minutes without scoring.

Taranaki lined out like this: Full-back: C. N. Kingston. Three-quarters: P. Hickey, R. Roberts, D. Sykes. Five-eighths: B. Roberts, R. Coutts. Half-back: F. Atkins. Forwards: R. Fogarty, A. Spratt, A. West, H. Masters, A. Kivell, M. Cain, T. Campbell. Wing-forward: C. McAllum.

Outweighed by 13 stone, the Taranaki pack exploited the traditional style of play on a soft ground so devastatingly that the South African eight were tied up. Their superior weight was counter-acted by the vigour of the home forwards, who at one stage seemed to have worn out their opponents' resistance.

The generalship of Dick Roberts, who proved that he was no spent light, and the magnificent tackling of the backs, combined to make Taranaki's tactics for that particular day at Pukekura Park absolutely perfect.

The crowd got a terrific thrill when for a moment it looked as if Taranaki were going to score. From a Taranaki back attack Sykes went over with Springboks hanging to him, and Taranaki were pushed back from the scrum which followed.

Kingston at full-back was deadly accurate, and but for his flawless play the result might have been a win for the Springboks.

It needed only a let-up by Taranaki and the South Africans would have stormed through; but Taranaki did not let up.

Of the provinces, Canterbury alone beat the tourists. Taranaki's struggle that day on a greasy ground to turn a pointless draw into a victory is the brightest spot in a great record of international games.

THE LAST MATCH

Though 16 years have passed since the last international game was played at Pukekura Park, many of the incidents of that memorable day are still vivid in the memory. And some of the incidents were not on the playing field.

It was the second match of the tour by F. D. Prentice's 1930 British team, and much was expected from the play as a pointer to the rest of the tour. In fact, the Rugby microscope was on the game. It

needed no microscope, though, for the eye to appreciate the wonderful scene in the park on that fresh May day. The terraces were packed south, west and east; and extra temporary stands were crammed full of a crowd impatient to see Rugby giants at grips. They saw plenty.

The crowd came from inside and outside the province. The tourists had made a big impression at Wanganui, but the Taranaki side, fortified by tradition and a packet of training and coaching, was expected to fully test the Britons, even, some thought, stage their first Waterloo. But tradition was to suffer a nasty knock.

ALL ON THE PACK.

Though it was early in the season, Taranaki had gathered a fair side together. There was no budding Dick Roberts to pivot the back-line, and it was taken for granted that Taranaki would have to stake its chances of success on the bustling forwards.

Tradition and hope were still as high as the goal posts at half-time. By then the Taranaki forwards had hustled the visitors into the shade. The score stood 4-0 in the home side's favour. After the spell tradition and hope climbed down and slunk into the shadows, pursued by a British lion roused. Still, it was a great day.

The teams lined out like this:

Taranaki: C. Hunt, K. Fookes, H. W. Brown, N. Hunter, D. Johnston, E. Owen, C. Brown, A. Guy, C. Wills, R. Clarke, P. Ward, I. A. Kivell, W. Robinson, J. Young.

Britain: R. Jennings, J. S. Reeve, C. D. Aarvold, P. F. Murray, J. Morley, R. S. Spong, N. Poole, D. A. Kendrew, D. Parker, H. O'H. O'Neill, B. H. Black, W. B. Welsh, J. McD. Hodgson, G. R. Beamish, H. Wilkinson.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER.

Sometimes the "shaping up" preliminaries hang around in memory long after the details of the play have gone out on the tide of forgotten things. That day there was much to remember—the roar of applause as the teams came out, the formal cheers as the sides went through the formalities, the snappiness of the Britons in their blue, the do-or-die air of the Taranakians magnified by their amber hoops, the usual springy caperings as the 30 men spread out in the flat green bottom of that magnificent sports bowl, the white referee's shrill whistle that split the wound-up tension—and the game was on.

The ball sailed into touch, soared back over a line-out, and the Taranaki pack crashed through in a charge which bent and strained but did not break the dour British defence. What a thrill for the terraced crowd as inch by inch the home forwards pushed and heaved and strained towards the elusive goal line.

Led by Pat Ward, the pack screwed up the game to traditional Taranaki tightness; and for 30 exciting and exasperating minutes, at any one of which the British backs defence might have faltered (but it didn't), the Taranakians held the play in a firm grip. The spectators held their breath. Then the reward, but not from the forwards. Owen got possession, was tackled, passed to Clarke, to Handley Brown, who kicked a field goal. Up went the points on to the score board.

Taranaki 4 – 0 Britain

Up went Taranaki's stocks, and the crowd's hopes. And till half-time up in smoke went a lot of opportunities when Taranaki, without a reliable place-kicker, failed to capitalise as time after time the British were penalised for breaches in the scrum.

ON OR OFF?

Came half-time. The British manager, Mr. Baxter, had pointed out before the game that the international rule should remain, preventing the teams leaving the field at the interval.

But Mr. J. McLeod, president of the Taranaki Rugby Union, insisted that the custom of leaving the field had always prevailed at Pukekura Park; and the teams did leave the field.

Mr. Baxter stood firm on the rest of the tour, and the rule was observed all subsequent games.

So into the second spell. The amber forwards looked like getting a fresh stranglehold on the game with raking rushes and smothering tactics, but their rule was a short one. Gradually the

Blue forwards won more and more of the ball and fed it out to their backs. The fleet backs cut holes in the defence and paved the way for scores, curiously enough by two forwards, Wilkinson and Black. Black converted both, and with the tally Britain 10, Taranaki 4, the crowd began to discern the writing on the wall.

Still, there were plenty of fireworks before the Britons' burst had carried their tally to 23. Taranaki hit once more when Guy intercepted a pass and streaked off with forwards in support. C. Wills went over for the last try (Brown missed the kick) and Taranaki were down 23 to 7.

THAT BLACK FELLOW.

A remarkable feature of those 23 points run up in 40 minutes by a side which looked beaten in the first half was the 11 points scored by the forward Black, eight of them from his boot.

The game was over. The crowd streamed and went home or into the pubs and played it all over again.

In a crowded hotel dining room downtown, where the teams and officials gathered for the customary complimentary dinner, something was said which went echoing out a long way from New Plymouth and Taranaki.

The remarks may not have been meant for publication. But there you are. Mr. Baxter, whose frankness no one could help but admire, continued his campaign against the wing forward as an institution.

His choice of words was not exactly fortunate. He stated that the ordinary man who tried to play in the position was nothing more or less than a cheat.

High words.

LET THE TOUR DECIDE.

A sensible note was struck by Mr. McLeod, who thought that the tour should decide the question, and at least give Mr. Baxter a chance to see some more of the wing forward play of the Dominion.

But there were no hot collars next day at North Mount Egmont, where the last international players to step on and off the field at Pukekura Park worked off their soreness in the fresh white mountain snow.

TDN, JANUARY 3, 1947

HOLIDAY VISITORS

PARK ATTRACTS MANY

WEATHER SETS BACK FLOWERS

Although the first two days of the holiday period were wet, Pukekura Park drew a large number of visitors.

For the six days from Christmas day to New Year's Day 1174 people visited the fernery and 1172 used the boats.

Owing to a few weeks of dull weather the begonias in the fernery are not yet in full bloom, but are expected to put on a great show in about two weeks' time when several hundred will be out. The unusually late season this year set the flower beds back, and they are not yet in full bloom, but the standard fuschia have turned on a really beautiful show with the majority of them out.

The Park is a picture at present and visitors to New Plymouth have been greatly impressed by its beauty.

The park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, has prepared a large schedule for improvements to the park, which is to be considered at the next Park Board meeting. The schedule covers the repairing of the buildings, boats, fences, glasshouses, hedges, forest areas and all matter that have been neglected during the war.

TDN, JANUARY 18, 1947

DUCKLINGS IN PUKEKURA PARK.

Ducklings in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth usually hatch out in October and November, but this season, although a few hatched at the normal time, most of them came within a day or two of New Year. Altogether there were a little under 100. Judging by the normal number of fatalities, only about 15 will survive, the remainder being killed off, mostly by eels, some of which are so big they attack adult ducks as well. This accounts for some of the ducks having only one leg. One duck this year has shown maternal farsightedness in raising her clutch near one of the small ponds near the fernery where they are safe from the attacks of eels.

TDN, FEBRUARY 1, 1947

WAGING WAR ON EELS

WAR is to be waged on the eels that each year destroy so many grey ducks in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. This will rid the Park of a pest and preserve game for the benefit of sportsmen.

The Taranaki Acclimatisation Society had approached him to see if he would allow them to clean up the lakes in the park, said the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to-day. He said he would be very pleased to have them do this as most of the young ducklings hatched out each year are destroyed by the eels, which even attack adult birds.

Eel baskets or traps will be used to catch the eels, said the president of the Acclimatisation Society, Mr. W. Jarvis, to-day. The trap consists of a cylindrical wire net on a steel frame 4ft. 6in. long by 18 to 20 inches wide. The Maoris used to make these nets of supple jack, he said. The trap is baited with animal flesh or

liver, and the eels go in through a funnel-shaped entrance round which are protruding wires that prevent the victims from getting out.

LIFE CYCLE OF THE EEL.

In the Otago Acclimatisation society's area it has been proved that water cleared of big eels is safe for young ducks and trout for the following five years, Mr. Jarvis said. The big eels, he explained, go out to sea to spawn and never return as they died in the sea. Their young go up river with the whitebait in the spring, and bury themselves in the mud for about two years till they are from six to nine inches long. They increase in weight by about one pound a year so that it is five years before they weigh five pounds and begin to become a menace to ducklings.

Places like the lakes in Pukekura Park have a very big population of infertile eels, which, because they are infertile, never migrate and grow bigger each year. Some now in the lakes weigh up to 25 lbs and are from 4ft 6ins to 6ft long.

Pukekura Park is to be the first place where an attack is made on the eels because it is one of the good breeding grounds for the grey duck. An area will hold only a certain amount of stock, so that once Pukekura Park is fully stocked the ducks will move to other areas to breed. This will to some extent restock the shooting grounds.

Later the society will trap eels in the Taranaki Power Board's lake at Ratapiko, where local farmers have offered to help.

The policy of destruction has not been decided upon, Mr. Jarvis said, but it may take the form of a competition between business firms as has been done in the past.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1947

ESTIMATED SUBSIDY £2000

An annual subsidy of £2000 from the New Plymouth Borough Council is the estimated requirement of the Pukekura Park Committee for the proper maintenance of the park.

This was the figure stated by the secretary of the committee, Mr. P. E. Stainton, yesterday when the finances of the committee were discussed with him by the finance committee of the council.

Mr. Stainton said the present deficit of the committee was £615. The estimated receipts to March 31 next were £303 12s 6d and the expenditure £692 2s 2d. There had been an increase in £700 in wages during recent years and the committee realised that with its present resources it was not able to maintain the park to the standard required for such an asset to the town. There was, said Mr. Stainton, a great deal of general maintenance work to be done, and in addition the silting up of the lakes, which was caused by the flow of storm water coming in from roads above the park, would cost perhaps £500 to clean out. If the lakes got into a low state they would become a menace as a breeding ground for mosquitos. Reduced hours of work and increased wages had rendered the council's subsidy to the committee

insufficient to meet the present needs of the park.

NO CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

"There has been no capital expenditure on the park for many years," said Mr. Stainton, "and I am sure it is the desire of the council that the park, which is one of the town's best assets, should be maintained at a high standard of efficiency. If that is to be done the subsidy will have to be increased by about £10 per week."

"It would be a good thing," he added, "if the council members could meet the committee, which is only a committee of the council, and go over the park together and see what is required."

At present an expenditure of over £2900 was required.

Mr. F. T. Bellringers (town clerk): "It looks as if the council is going to have to provide £40 to £50 a week for the maintenance of the park."

Mr. Stainton said many visitors had expressed surprise at the staff employed for such a large area. He said there were only six in addition to Mr. Horton, who was doing far more manual work than a man of his age should have to do.

"It looks," he said, "as if when a new superintendent has to be appointed another man will also be required to do the manual work that Mr. Horton has been doing."

The matter was left at that stage for further consideration by the committee and for any subsequent recommendations to the council. Mr. Stainton added that it was expected the deficit for this year would be about £500.

TH, FEBRUARY 12, 1947

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

The major part of the work done during the month at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, had been general maintenance, the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported at a meeting yesterday of the Pukekura Park Committee. Considerable work had been done on the sportsground, added the superintendent, and considering the extent to which the grounds had been used for sports, athletics, marching, cricket and band contests, the racing track and cricket pitch were in excellent order.

In the outer areas, the growth of grass and weeds had been phenomenal but cutting and cleaning was being done as opportunity allowed.

Mr. Horton recently returned from the New Zealand horticultural conference in Hastings and will report later on this to the committee.

Tickets sold for the fernery to January 31 were 4850 and for the boats 3529, the numbers being slightly below those sold in the same period last year. It was reported by the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, that the gate takings on the occasion of the visit to New Plymouth of the Australian girls' marching team were £285 1s 6d.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Vote of Condolence. The Chairman made reference to the loss that the committee had sustained through the death of the late Mr. E. J. Carr, who had

been a member of the committee since August 31, 1933.

Additional Members on Committee. It was resolved to invite Messrs. Ken Lippiatt, Brian Scanlan and Don Saxton to become members of the Committee.

TH, FEBRUARY 25, 1947

KAURI IN THE PARK

The way in which kauris are thriving on poor ground at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, showed they were not slow growing as so many people seemed to think, said the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, and he advocated growing these trees in other parts of Taranaki.

Mr. Horton was addressing members of the New Plymouth Rotary Club who paid a short visit to the park last evening instead of having the usual address in the tea rooms. It was an ideal evening for such an excursion as the air was warm and still and the trees looked their best.

Mr. Horton showed the party a planting of New Zealand's three leading timber trees, kauri, rimu, and totara, which are growing along the John Street walk. When he started working at the park 21 years ago, he said, the area was covered with *Pinus insignis*. When these were cut down, nothing was left but the stumps and rubbish, and the land was exhausted. Within a month, he started planting the new trees. The kauris were pot-grown plants, about nine inches high. Now they are about 30 feet high and thriving. As to their rate of growth, they are keeping up with, if not out-pacing, the rimus and totaras.

The oldest kauri in the park, near the boatsheds, said Mr. Horton, was planted about 33 years ago and is now 62 feet high with a girth of 50 inches four feet from the ground. It contains 16 inches of solid timber. Altogether there are about 300 kauris in the park and they are all doing well.

The party then visited the fernery and begonia house, after which Rotarian V. C. Davies, on behalf of the club, thanked Mr. Horton for his address.

TH, MARCH 19, 1947

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING PARK FINANCES

PUKEKURA COMMITTEE'S DEBIT BALANCE

TO MEET COUNCIL FOR SOLUTION

"We'll just finish up this year with a debit balance of £600." This statement, made at yesterday's meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee by the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, set off a cycle of discussion during which the needs of the park, finance and possible solutions to the present financial difficulty were considered at length.

Mr. Stainton said that essential painting jobs on bridges, sheds, etc., should be tackled, but this would merely add further to the already high annual bill for upkeep.

When a member suggested that the mobile plant operated by the Borough Council to maintain reserves, etc., be used on Pukekura Park as a means of

cutting down expenses, and permitting the member of the park staff at present employed on maintaining the sportsground to be shifted to another area, the move was opposed by the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton. He stated that the plant would not be always available at the time required, and on that reason alone did not consider the suggestion a practicable one. It was then suggested that the Borough Council pay the wages of the sports groundsman.

VERY PERTURBED.

"The council was very perturbed at the last meeting at the deficiencies in the finance at Pukekura and Brooklands, which considerably exceeds the borough subsidy," said the Mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour. The general impression had been that costs must cut, he continued. He realised, however, that the money was only being spent on ordinary wages and maintenance. The total amount paid out in wages was £54 each week.

"When the improvements suggested are taken into account." Mr. Gilmour said, "we must realise the big expenditure ahead and face up to it. Pukekura Park is a feature of which New Plymouth is proud, and for want of additional money it is going back. Is not that so. Mr. Horton?"

Mr. Horton agreed.

An Immediate grant of about £3000 a year for repairs and £2000 for general maintenance was suggested by Mr. L. W. Lovell, but he said he did not know where the money was to come from.

"The rates could easily be raised," he stated," but New Plymouth is already one of New Zealand's highest rated boroughs. The position has to be met, for we all realise what a great asset to New Plymouth Pukekura Park is."

Mr. Lovell's remarks were supported by Mr. H. V. McCready.

RAISING FINANCE.

Means of raising finance, other than grants, were discussed. They included the holding of a gala day, and a suggestion by Mr. Lovell that charges to sports bodies using the park should be increased. He felt that there was too much wanting facilities for nothing, and said that tennis and golf players had to provide their own playing areas. It did not seem fair for other sports bodies to expect the committee to keep the grounds to order at hardly any expense to them.

"The charges made for the sportsground are far too low," he said. The committee's expenses are continually increasing, but our revenue is not rising correspondingly."

Everyone wished to have the use of the ground, but few if any wished to pay a reasonable rental. "There must be an end to this policy," he added. "It seems that all charges for the ground are still at the 1939 level."

He stressed that profit was not desired by the committee, and concluded: "But it seems only right that users should contribute a reasonable amount towards upkeep and maintenance of the grounds."

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

Mr. Gilmour, in suggesting a round table conference between the Committee and the Borough Council, said he thought New Plymouth people should be asked to help. He was satisfied that all money was being spent on maintenance only.

Unfavourable comparisons were drawn with the finances allotted to other park committees by their local bodies. At Palmerston North, £8,000 is allotted annually, while at Napier the is £14,000. These are well above the grant to the Pukekura Park Committee.

It was decided to have a round table conference with the Borough Council, to discuss the entire subject.

SMALL LORRY REQUIRED

The need of a small lorry for the purpose of carting spoil and debris was stressed in the report of the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at the meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee yesterday. At the same meeting it was decided that the re-sealing of the Liardet Street entrance be put in hand shortly. The portion in front of the sports pavilion will be included. It was stated that the deterioration in the present surface would continue during the winter should the work not be done.

TH, MARCH 25, 1947

SPORTS GROUND REVENUE AND COSTS

An Investigation into the use of the sportsground and the funds available for its maintenance has brought to light some interesting facts.

Park Committee's accounts show the contributions of sports bodies for the past three years. In the 1944-45 season the Taranaki Rugby Union contributed £71 2s 10d, being a rental of £20 and £51 2s 10d as a percentage of gate takings. The gate takings from the Labour Day sports meetings yielded the committee £10 16s. Totalling £81 18s 10d.

For the 1945-46 season the Taranaki Rugby Union on a gates percentage basis paid the committee £165 16s 11d; the Taranaki Rugby League £5 16s 6d; Tukapa Football Club £10; New Plymouth A.A. & C. Club £18 19s 2d; Cricket Association £12 (for use of grounds); Labour Day sports £21 4s 3d; and the Auckland Watersiders' Band £11 5s 6d; a total of £256 18s 4d.

For the 1946-47 the revenue to date has been £291 11s 9d, made up of rent from the Cricket Association £25; and percentages of gates from Tukapa Football Club £17 6s 8d; Rugby League £10 4s; Old Boys' Football Club £2 15s; Rugby Union £86 3s 6d; New Plymouth Girls' Marching Association £27 5s 1d; Australian girls' marching display £28 10s; Labour Day sports £25 12s; Auckland Watersiders' Band £12 6s; N.P.A.A. & C. Club £13 2s 9d; Band contest £35 16s 9d.

MAINTENANCE COSTS

Costs of maintaining the ground for a season approximate £466 14s. This sum is made up, in approximate figures in some instances, of the wages or a groundsman for 36 weeks, £226 7s; four men assisting with mowing and top dressing for 11 weeks £64 7s; proportion

of superintendent's salary £25; benzine oil, grease, etc., for tractor £32; repairs to tractor and mowing machines £47; soil for top dressing £20; cartage £6; grass seed and manures £5; timber for repairs to seating £15; painting main gates £10; repairs and maintenance to conveniences and pavilion £12; tools, scythes and sharpening stones £4.

Work that requires to be done includes the painting of the guard fence round the playing area and the ticket boxes, overhaul of pavilion, and pylons and wall in front, and the resurfacing of the roadway and parking area.

In an interview the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, said that among the annual gatherings always held on the ground were the Anzac Day parade and service of commemoration, primary schools athletic sports and the Labour Day sports meeting. The more frequent and regular users of the ground were the Girls' Marching Association for competitions and the teams for this event practise there mornings and evenings through the summer season.

TRAINING GROUND.

The amateur athletic and cycle club use the ground for sports meeting, including their weekly night meeting through the summer season, and the members of this club use it as a training ground mornings and evenings and sometimes on Sundays. The Regimental and Pipe Bands have marching and drill practices occasionally.

A good deal of use is made of the ground during the cricket season, both for matches and practice purposes.

Eight practice wickets have been prepared, four for the primary and high schools, and the centre three-pitch area for competition games, making 13 pitches in all.

The boys' high school send four teams to play on three days a week and the primary schools have six teams playing on Friday. On Friday last, Mr. Horton said, there were 90 primary school boys and 60 boys from the high school playing on the ground that day.

Two country schools often use the ground on Saturday mornings and the cricket association uses the ground every Saturday and on many holidays for competition matches.

From April to September the ground is used every Saturday for football and sometimes as many as three matches have been played in one day.

TH, MARCH 28, 1947

JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

"THE rapid deterioration of Pukekura Park is in our opinion so alarming that we have no hesitation in urging that the Junior Chamber of Commerce give our views support and publicity so that citizens may know the section of the community we represent is vitally concerned for the future of this valuable asset," states a report of the town beautifying section of its Civic Affairs Committee presented to the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce Board yesterday afternoon.

The board adopted the report and decided to request that the Borough Council convene a meeting at an early date to which representations of the council, the Pukekura Park Committee, the New Plymouth branch of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, the New Plymouth Rotary Club, the Taranaki Chamber of commerce and the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce be invited, "with the object of finding a way to remedy the situation as it affects our parks and reserves."

Mr. G. Porter, president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, who presided at the meeting, commented on the thoroughness of the sub-committee's report, which he considered deserved wholehearted support.

The report, which was unanimously adopted, and copies of which are to be sent to the organisations mentioned, states:

"We have specially visited the parks and the reserves which the people of New Plymouth and visitors can see for themselves any day of the week. By the parks the town's interest in its natural surroundings is judged. Compared with other towns of the same size and even much larger, New Plymouth is abundantly blessed with parks, reserves and patches of native bush. Financially this asset can a heavy responsibility. But, rather than a burden, we consider it a trust to be carried cheerfully and proudly, well worth the cost, a trust that cannot be assessed in mere cash. We are practical enough to believe that the main parks and the reserves can be run efficiently and well at an annual expenditure that would not embarrass the borough's exchequer. The return, aesthetically and financially, could be greatly boosted.

"We realise that the war and its after effects have hit the parks and reserves, and that those responsible for their control and upkeep can rightly say they did their best under adverse circumstances. Recrimination, as Churchill said of history, is useful only as a guide and a corrective for the future. What has happened and is happening with Pukekura Park we believe indicates its own remedy.

PLANNING URGED.

"We would stress that with such a living—and such a long-living thing as Pukekura Park there must be imagination in its planning and both short and long-range vision in its control. The park could not be remodelled in a day or a week, even if that were desirable, but we must get on with the job. There must be no hesitation and let-up. To even a casual observer it is obvious that the park has fallen into a state of neglect and it cannot recover as quickly as it slipped. Opportunities have been missed. If there has been a long-range policy or plan, there are signs that it has not been carried out.

"For example, there are valuable specimen trees which obviously were planted to replace existing trees nearing the end of their days. But, these replacements have suffered from lack of attention. Many Of the older trees in the Park are a source of danger. The longer

these trees are left the more dangerous they will become.

RESULT OF INSPECTION.

"We are particularly concerned with Pukekura Park, and for that reason most of this report is devoted to it, but all of the reserves are suffering from lack of the attention they should have. In a suggestion we make about control the other reserves will be mentioned. Collectively and individually the members of the sub-committee inspected Pukekura Park, then discussed its state, its control, its finances, and its future.

"For the purposes of comparison we had facts and figures of reserves in Napier, Palmerston North, Wanganui, Oamaru, Nelson, Hawera and elsewhere, supplied by request from the authorities in those towns. One fact impressed us, control of parks and reserves in many places is under a superintendent whose responsibilities are completely administrative. He does not do any manual work, but is a skilled executive officer directing a trained staff.

QUESTIONS ASKED.

"In a discussion on Pukekura Park administration these questions were asked:

"The Borough Council appoints as its representative four members of the park committee. How are the other members elected?

"When vacancies occur are they filled in a reasonable time?

"Does the committee itself fill vacancies other than those of the council or sports bodies representatives?

"Are their qualifications to hold a position on what is an important public committee more than a general interest in the park?

"Have representatives of sports bodies the right to speak to and vote on resolutions affecting administration outside the recreation ground?

"Does the committee make a personal inspection of the park often enough?

SOURCES OF REVENUE.

The Borough accounts for 1945-46 show that the Park Committees received a grant from the council for £2061. In addition there are annual amounts from bequests.

"The tea kiosk, a handsome gift from two public-spirited citizens, is an enduring asset though subject to depreciation. Provision, of course has to be made for that. The rent seems to be a steady £52 a year. This does not even cover the secretary's honorarium. The revenue from a handful of boats, mostly on Sunday outings, is over £200. The comparison is striking.

STATE OF APPOINTMENTS.

"Something has recently been done to mend" some of the seats and other appointments about the park, but they are still in a very bad state. There are not enough seats for the public. The present ones have a tumble-down neglected air about them. The rails round the lake in front of the band rotunda, the first place that visitors make for, are rickety and in places, dangerous for children. Sign boards are in a poor way, and the

conveniences are a disgrace. The lack of care and repair with the appointments suggests inadequate staffing.

"In various parts of the park the undergrowth has overtaken and crippled choked or extinguished valuable young trees and shrubs. Thinning and trimming has been so long delayed in places that choice plants have been cramped, permanently distorted or stunted by overpowering trees.

"There is a great population of dead or dying trees and pungas which should have been removed years ago. Large areas of the park are so overcrowded with valueless undergrowth that it is impossible to appreciate the beauty of the trees and plants that should have a rightful place to live and flourish.

THE RHODODENDRONS.

"There are signs of distress in the planting of rhododendrons in the southern end of the park. These were a gift to the park and were specially chosen. It is probably the best publicly owned collection of rhododendrons in the Dominion.

"Some of the specimens are rare and all of them are choice and beautiful. They deserve a better fate than they have at present. They are crowded and badly in need of expert attention. Some attempt has been made to layer a few of the plants, but it was either hastily or inexpertly done. When they were at the best time to be viewed by the public this season a mass of weeds discouraged close inspection.

"Much could be done with this wonderful collection. It would not be an exaggeration to say that, properly developed, they would be a considerable financial help to the park.

VANDALISM.

"A very disturbing sign to our mind is the increasing amount of vandalism or hooliganism in the park. This suggests public indifference, a lack of pride and responsibility by the younger people whose heritage the park is, and absence of effective supervision. While members of the sub-committee were on one of the paths on a Sunday afternoon they were nearly run down by three girl cyclists.

"Among the rhododendrons we surprised a couple of youths picking the blooms and flinging them down. It was too much for us and we took action. One of the marauders told us smartly and tartly that they could do what they liked. It seems that he was fairly correct; at least circumstances are such that he and his kind apparently think they could do what they liked. A neglected state invites vandalism. It is our contention that a well supervised would check this kind of thoughtless havoc-wrecker.

"Brooklands and the park have become a broad highway for cyclists

SUGGESTIONS.

"This running comment on the condition of the park is neither carping nor destructive criticism. We relate the facts as we see them, in order to justify these constructive and sincere proposals we offer:

"1. ADMINISTRATION: Supervision of Pukekura Park and all other reserves

in the borough should be under unified control. There should be a reserves department, with a fully qualified man in charge. Under his management we believe that a properly equipped, energetic staff, with the aid of modern machinery, including transport facilities, could keep the reserves in order cheaper than the present method of having men scattered here and there round the borough.

"For example, in many cities and boroughs one mower serves any number of reserves. It is taken the rounds on a lorry as part of the programme of work. Why have two mowers when one would do? Instead of one man, say, stationed at Kawaroa Park, why not descend on the job with several men and do the work in a fraction of the time and move on?

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTROL

"2. CONTROL: Committees sponsoring parks have done a grand pioneering job, but the time is overdue when they should be freed of their responsibility for care and up-keep. The Pukekura Park committee is hampered in some way, either by lack of finance or lack of public support and interest. It is our belief that the council finds difficulty in getting men willing to give their time as members of this very important body which controls the town's greatest natural asset. The answer is to have a council department responsible for the control of reserves.

"3. SUPERINTENDENT: If such a unified system were acceptable we believe that the post of superintendent of parks and reserves should carry a salary sufficient to attract a fully qualified man who would have an adequate experienced staff and who would be able to plan the future of the parks and reserves unencumbered by the present method of control. The position should be advertised publicly.

IMPORTANCE OF NURSERY.

"4. BOROUGH NURSERY: In any major plan special and immediate attention should be given Pukekura Park so that it can be rejuvenated. We believe that it could play an important part in the establishment of a borough nursery, which would supply not only bedding plants but valuable shrubs and trees for distribution among other reserves. This nursery, far from being a liability, could be made a paying proposition, particularly if the full potentialities of the rhododendrons were developed.

"5. FINANCE: Because of the general trend, a higher grant may be initially necessary for a reserves department, but we believe that in the long run the result would justify the expenditure. It is a case of progress, or gradually lose a priceless asset—and the rate of depreciation, unless something is done, will accelerate alarmingly.

CARNIVALS IN PARK.

"6. ATTRACTIONS: we seem to have lost the art of using our parks for public entertainment. Why not a summer carnival in Pukekura Park? Surely the town has enough public-spirited organisations which would combine to stage even open air concerts. Napier uses its man-made Parade every week in the

summer for the entertainment of the people by the people. Is there any more attractive setting than Pukekura Park?

"7. PUBLIC ATTENTION: This report has been prepared deliberately on broad lines. It is not suggested that wonders can be performed overnight for the mere asking. But in our comments we think we are expressing the feelings, of a lot of people of New Plymouth. For the rest, we are concerned about what can only be described as public apathy towards our parks and reserves. Our only ammunition is fact and feeling. Our target is the public ear.

"It is a smarting commentary on our way of life that while a Gaming Commission considers how a large section of the public uses its State conferred leisure and its surplus cash, a growing borough like New Plymouth, on the verge of city status, has difficulty in finding the finance and the manpower to keep its parks and reserves from deteriorating. In both cases it is the people's own business. As citizens we earnestly commend to the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce and the public the business of our parks and reserves as well worth minding."

TH, APRIL 1, 1947

SUPPORT FOR J.C.O.C. REPORT

Support for the proposals made by New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce concerning Pukekura Park was expressed at meeting last night of the New Plymouth branch of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. If a meeting is called by the Borough council as suggested, the branch named as its representatives Messrs. L. W. Delph, V. C. Davies, G. Huthnance and A. B. Norman.

TH, APRIL 16, 1947

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING STATE OF PUKEKURA PARK COMMITTEE'S ANSWER TO CRITICISM

"It is unfortunate that the report prepared by the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce criticising the state of Pukekura Park and its administration had received so much publicity," said Mr. P. E. Stainton at a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee in New Plymouth yesterday. He expressed regret that the committee responsible for the report had not contacted any member of the park committee, who would have been glad to supply them with any information they desired. Had they done so, continued Mr. Stainton, they would have learnt of a report covering all the repairs and work required for the improvement of the park presented by Mr. T. Horton, the park superintendent, last November.

During discussion it was stated that Mr. Horton had spent a lot of time in improvements. The park committee had even gone round with Mr. Horton to see what work was required. But repairs and improvements had been held up because of the shortage of labour and material. Because of the higher costs it was impossible to run the park as it had been

before the war. It was hard enough to do so then.

It was stated that the Junior Chamber of Commerce desired a conference with the park committee.

Mr. Stainton: This committee would be pleased to have a conference with any committee, as long as public interest is kept on the park. It is a pity the Junior Chamber of Commerce prepared its report without seeing any member on this committee.

Mr. H. V. McCready: We have had criticism and now we want practical assistance.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

In an extensive report covering eight pages presented to the Pukekura Park Committee last November and which has been under consideration by the committee ever since, Mr. Horton gave the total cost of repairs at approximately £2925.

"Realising the deterioration that is rapidly going on in Pukekura Park and Brooklands, I desire to draw the committee's attention to some of the most urgent work that requires doing," said Mr. Horton in his report. "The fact is that practically all the work is more or less urgent, and as there is so much requiring attention, I suggest the most urgent be put in hand as early as possible, say during 1947, and the balance might be spread over a period of say, four or five years.

The time to complete the whole of the improvements suggested, will depend on the amount of money and labour available," continued Mr. Horton. "Further very serious deterioration will take place—in fact several of the buildings will become useless—if neglected for a longer period.

DURING THE WAR.

"During the war practically nothing was spent on the maintenance of buildings and permanent structures, and before the war the annual monetary grant from the New Plymouth Borough Council was too small for the satisfactory maintenance of such buildings.

"I know that a large sum of money will be required to carry out my recommendations, but I feel it to be my duty to draw your attention to the matter," he continued: "After all no matter what the cost, is Pukekura Park not worth it?"

"Pukekura Park has a reputation far beyond our own country," Mr. Horton said. "If we are to maintain that reputation it will be necessary to carry out the works suggested, and when these works are completed an increase will be essential to maintain it as it should be maintained. We have always worked with too small a staff, and much maintenance and improvements that should have been done have simply had to be left undone. The war and the shortage of permanent labour has to an extent contributed to the deterioration referred to.

"There is sufficient repair work to keep a handy man, such as a rough carpenter and painter, permanently on the staff. Then there is a bush and forest area of the park and the parts where pines and

other exotics are growing which should have regular attention, requiring the services of two more men. If the staff could be increased by three men the whole park could and would be maintained much more efficiently than hitherto."

ESTIMATE OF COSTS.

A survey of work considered necessary to houses and other buildings at Brooklands and Pukekura Park and estimated costs of the work was:—

Superintendent's house and sheds: Repairs and exterior and interior painting, £55.

The Bungalow at Brooklands: Repairs and painting, £60.

The Gables at Brooklands: Extensive repairs, the first major repairs for 15 years and painting £250.

Brooklands: Miscellaneous painting, £50.

Pukekura Park: Painting and repairs sportsground pavilion, and repairs to boiler-room £35; repainting Press room, ticket boxes railing round playing area and gates £50; overhaul engine and implement shed £15; painting and inspection of roof of band rotunda £25; replacement of men's conveniences £250; removal of staff room and tool sheds to more suitable and dry site, at least £200; complete overhaul and painting of women's rest room and office £60; complete overhaul and painting of fernery, consisting begonia and propagating houses, roughly £250; provision of new superintendent's office £100; replacement of boat house, £150.

Other undertakings to which Mr. Horton directed the attention of the committee were: Cleaning and resurfacing of pillars and painting of main gates at Pukekura Park, £35; resurfacing of main drive and parking area, £25; attention to terrace seating, £30; removal of rust and painting of Poet's Bridge £60 to £80; strengthening and painting boat-shed bridge £25; cleaning out of Brooklands Lake £100; removal of silt from main lake at Pukekura Park, possibly by the borough engineer's staff, £500; repairs to fences and gates at park entrances, provision of new seats £40.

Referring to the age of some of the pine trees, at the park, Mr. Horton said that where any group of pines had been removed groups of native trees were growing and all were doing remarkably well.

TH, APRIL 16, 1947 CEREMONIAL SPADE GIFTED TO MUSEUM

Three gifts to the museum, a painting of Mount Egmont, a spade and three specimens of a rare vegetable caterpillar, were acknowledged at a meeting of the New Plymouth Library and Taranaki Museum committee last night. The spade was used to plant the first tree in Pukekura Park when it was declared a public reserve on May 29, 1876. The tree, of the pinus insignis variety, was planted by Miss Jane Carrington.

TH, APRIL 22, 1947

CONFERENCE TO BE HELD TO DISCUSS STATE OF PARK

New Plymouth borough councillors are to inspect Pukekura Park, and will later confer with various organisations to discuss the park's state. This was decided by the council last night following a suggestion by the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Councillors will inspect the park on May 12, and on May 26 will confer with the Pukekura Park Committee, the New Plymouth branch of the Institute of Horticulture, New Plymouth Rotary Club, the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce and the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Messrs. G. E. K. Lippiatt, A. B. Scanlan and D. F. C. Saxton were appointed members of the Pukekura Park Committee.

Consideration of a recommendation of the Pukekura Park Committee that the Taranaki Council of Sport be requested to nominate two persons for appointment as members of the Pukekura Park committee was deferred till further information from the committee is received.

TDN, APRIL 22, 1947

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vacancies on the Pukekura Park Committee were filled by the New Plymouth Borough Council when a recommendation by the finance committee that Messrs G. E. K. Lippiatt, A. B. Scanlan and D. F. C. Saxton be appointed members was adopted.

A grant of £616 10s was made to the committee to extinguish the debit balance in the committee's general account which would otherwise occur at the end of the year ended March 31, 1947. A grant of £377 10s was made to the Belt Road motor camp committee for the same purpose.

The council decided to give effect to park committee's recommendation that a conference between the committee and the council be held to discuss the financial position of the park committee, and make a joint inspection of works at the park.

Effect is also to be given to a request of the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce that a conference be held among representatives of the council, the junior chamber, the Pukekura Park Committee, the New Plymouth branch of the Institute of Horticulture, New Plymouth Rotary Club, and the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce to consider matters relating to Pukekura Park and other parks and reserves controlled by the council.

TDN, MAY 14, 1947

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. W. F. Short (chair) also present Messrs. F. Parker, H. V. McCready, A. B. Scanlan, E. R. C. Gilmour, L. W. Lovell, D. F. C. Saxton, K. Lippiatt, T. Horton (superintendent) and P. E. Stainton (secretary). Apology, Mr. E. King.

"Interest of the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce in Pukekura Park," said the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee last night.

"If we can interest a body of young men of the town in the park it should be possible to organise functions that would improve the committee's finances," he said.

Though a great deal of use was being made of the sportsground there was very little revenue coming from it, said the chairman, Mr. W. F. Short.

TOPPING OF TREES IN PARK

Consideration of a request for the topping of the pine trees on the southern boundary of Pukekura Park made by the Brookland Tenants' Association was deferred by the committee at its meeting last night. The committee desired to make an inspection before making a decision.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

The Chairman welcomed the newly appointed members of the committee, Messrs. Scanlan, Saxton and Lippiatt.

TDN, MAY 15, 1947

TRAPPING OF EELS TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO PROTECT DUCKS

With the object of preventing the destruction of thousands of young ducks before they reach maturity an extensive eel trapping campaign is to be undertaken by the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society in its territory. Sportsmen over a very wide area should benefit if the campaign is successful for it is hoped that the ducks will migrate all over the province and so replace depleted stocks.

The first snaring will be done in the upper lake at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, which is a game sanctuary, and in the Waiongona, Mangarakau, and Tapuwae streams. The aim of the society is to clear the park lake and the rivers of eels, so that ducks will breed profusely and overstock those haunts. It is believed that a migration will then take place to lagoons and streams throughout the province.

It has been proved that if an area is thoroughly cleared of eels it takes five years of the eel population to become large enough to menace young ducks again. The society is to have 12 traps built on the design of the Maori snare.

The traps will be capable of catching large numbers of eels, six eels being caught in Pukekura Park by one trap used as an experiment. The eels are now hibernating, so extensive trapping operations cannot be undertaken until August.

TH, MAY 17, 1947

STANDISH BEQUEST

The Church of England, the Pukekura Park Committee and the New Plymouth R.S.A. are three organisations that benefit under the will of the late Arthur Russell Standish, of New Plymouth. Public bequests contained in his will total £1000.

The sum of £500 was bequeathed to the No. 1 Taranaki Bishopric Fund which is

administered by the Taranaki Church of England Trust Board, of which Mr. Standish was a member from 1921 until the time of his death.

The New Plymouth Returned Servicemen's Association will receive £100, Mr. Standish, who served in the first world war, was honorary solicitor to the association almost from the time of its inception.

The president of the New Plymouth association, Mr. Murdoch Fraser, stated that the bequest would be paid into a special fund called the Standish Bequest, and probably the incoming committee would deal with the matter.

He paid a tribute to the generous gift. Mr. Standish, who had always taken a real interest in the association.

The Pukekura Park Committee will benefit to the extent of £400. Though Mr. Standish was never on the committee he lived near the park gates, and always took a keen interest in the park.

"Mr. Standish frequented the park a great deal, and this is further tangible evidence of his interest, stated the secretary of the committee, Mr. P. E. Stainton. "The committee will decide how the money will be spent, but with regard to donations it has always been the committee's policy to carry out work of a permanent nature that would perpetuate the memory of the donors," he added.

TH, MAY 27, 1947

FRANK SPEAKING NEW PLYMOUTH PARKS UNIFIED CONTROL URGED

Frank speaking characterised a two and three-quarter-hour conference last night called to consider how to reorganise the administration of New Plymouth's parks and reserves and how to bring them up to a desirable standard. Finance was fixed as the major factor in any scheme, and how this problem should be tackled was exhaustively discussed.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. W. Wilson, on behalf of the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce, at whose instigation the meeting was called, was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting of interested bodies is of the opinion that a reorganisation of the method of control of parks and reserves of New Plymouth is necessary, and recommends the council to consider setting up a separate department under a superintendent to administer all parks and reserves."

General agreement that New Plymouth's parks were in a poor state was expressed by all speakers, but views on how the situation should be remedied conflicted, ranging from reconverting the borough's already heavy loading of debt to running carnivals.

Represented at the meeting were the New Plymouth Borough Council, the Pukekura Park Committee, the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce and the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

"This town is not so poverty poor that if £2,000 is needed for a project it can't be found," said Mr. Wilson, who opened discussion with a review of the junior chamber's recent report on Pukekura Park. "Our greatest asset has been left in a deplorable condition."

Pukekura Park was featured in the report, said Mr. Wilson, because it was the most prominent, but comments in the report went for all reserves. Six months' thought and study had gone into the report, and it was brought down because of a desire to see the town go ahead.

Parks generally suffered from lack of funds, but that was not the only difficulty. The control of reserves was cumbersome. There were a lot of committees for different reserves, and they were financed in strange ways. They should be brought together and made workable, and a superintendent should be appointed at a good salary and with adequate funds with which to work.

LACK OF INTEREST.

The saddest thing and the biggest thing to fight was lack of interest, he continued. Interest had been too vague, and people were not prepared to work and pay for their reserves.

Horticulturists of the town were poorly represented on committees. They should be there in force, but there was no sign of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

"Surely they can be expected to contribute something," continued Mr. Wilson. "There is little, if any, horticultural planning, and none artistically. Planning is necessary. This is an age of planning. Must parks lag behind?"

People to-day were not prepared to devote time to working bees, so they must be prepared to pay or go without, he went on. New Plymouth had developed a sense of community complacency. It had been told too often what a wonderful place it was. But the town did not now have the greatest park in New Zealand; it had the greatest potential park 'in New Zealand.

Turning to finance he urged that money spent was well worth the value, and he went on to point out the revenue value of a beautiful park. He criticised the "filching" of grants and bequests to the park for maintenance.

(This was subsequently denied by the town clerk, Mr. F. T. Bellringer).

Mr. Wilson moved his resolution.

HORTICULTURISTS' VIEWS.

Support for the proposal to include horticulturists on the Park Committee was voiced by Mr. J. W. Delph, chairman of the Taranaki district council of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and Taranaki representative on the Dominion council. He also stated that after mature consideration his institute supported the move to have all reserves placed under a man of wide experience of parks and grounds. He should prepare a long-range plan. Developed in this way parks would become an ideal place for horticulture trainees.

Few New Plymouth people were aware of the value of Pukekura Park as a

horticultural asset, said Mr. V. C. Davies, an executive officer of the institute. The park could be made a world-wide attraction. The rhododendron dell he valued at £1500 as it stood, and as a commercial venture it was worth £250 a year. It had been the best in New Zealand, but it was not so now. He went on to describe the park's potentialities.

COUNCIL'S PLAN.

At this stage Cr. C. H. Wynyard, at the request of Mr. P. E. Stainton, a member of the Pukekura Park Committee, outlined the council's plan for park control. As he explained it, and as it was subsequently described by the town clerk, who read out the council's resolution, it was to incorporate all parks except Pukekura under a reserves committee of the council. This plan was placed before chairmen of the reserves committee last year, but no final decision was made.

Mr. Wynyard went on to eulogise the work done by voluntary workers over a large number of years, and he stated that because the council did not want to lose the enthusiasm of these men that they did not plunge straight into the scheme.

A mobile unit was already operating, and the council intended making more funds available to it.

Discussing the Junior chamber's proposals, Mr. Wynyard said that to do the work the town had to face up to an increase in rates. "We want you to tell us," he said to Mr. Wilson, "that you suggest a rate increase to put the parks into the condition you want, and if the citizens want it it will be done."

In reply to Cr. F. S. Grayling, Mr. Wilson said he did not mean that all the old committees should go. To Mr. Wynyard's comment on rates, he said that although New Plymouth was rated highly, anyone who was interested would be prepared to pay.

RATE INCREASE.

Cr. Grayling also praised the work of voluntary workers and described his experiences of public apathy. Referring to rates, he said that although there were a number of wealthy people in New Plymouth who would not notice a rate increase, there were others on fixed wages who would find it more difficult.

The council's policy was to accept land when it was offered, he went on. It was appreciated that it would not be possible to maintain these areas, but acceptance ensured that they were kept for the future.

"The report of the junior chamber is useful, but some of it was drawn up with either lack of knowledge or lack of appreciation of the true position," said Mr. Stainton. In November last the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, had prepared a report, in which he had described how maintenance had deteriorated through lack of funds. He was as fully alive to the requirements of the park as anyone.

The condition at which the parks could be maintained was governed by ability to pay. The committee was governed by what the council saw fit to give it. Mr. Stainton stressed that further

development meant increased maintenance costs.

"I was hopeful that I would hear a solution as to how to do all this," he continued. "I hoped to hear Mr. Wilson say the Junior chamber would take charge and run carnivals to finance Pukekura Park. Up to now I am disappointed."

It was not the intention of the junior chamber to raise money, said Mr. G. M. Porter, the chamber president.

After future long discussion in which the possibilities of reconverting outstanding loans was considered, the resolution was carried unanimously.

TH, JUNE 16, 1947

RHODODENDRONS MOVING

Block and tackle, sledge and barrows are being used to shift about 85 rhododendrons in the dell at Pukekura park, New Plymouth. The move has been made to give the plants room to spread their branches and grow into specimen trees.

"Moving day" began a fortnight ago and it will be two to three weeks before all the plants are settled in their new home.

The park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, explained this morning that when the rhododendrons were planted 10 years ago near the Brooklands boundary they were spaced six feet apart. There should have been 12 feet between each plant to give it a chance to grow into a good tree but there was not enough room in that particular dell.

At the time of planting it was planned to later shift every other plant to a site as near as possible to the original planting place. This shift should have been made six years ago, but shortage of staff caused its delay until now.

Four men are on the job working under the supervision of Mr. Horton and Mr. A. J. Black, a rhododendron specialist who is on the park staff.

TRANSFER TO BROOKLANDS.

The smaller plants have been transferred to the hillside at Brooklands nearby. The fence has been shifted, and soon a bulldozer will make a path down the hill so that visitors can walk down easily to the rhododendrons. The bigger rhododendrons have settled in on the flat area where they are at present and a few of them have placed on a bank. With a background of totara and kowhai trees they will make a lovely picture at blooming time.

Mr. Black said it was a difficult job to lift a plant weighing half a ton, place it on a sledge, drag it on to one of the paths in the dell and then lift it on to a barrow for shifting to its new home, but the men managed it.

Of the 257 rhododendrons, 60 will be shifted to the Brooklands site and 20 to 25 of the bigger trees will be moved to new places.

"The collection is a valuable asset to this town, and we must not allow it to deteriorate," pointed out Mr. Horton. The shift would enable the trees to grow instead of cramped as in the past, and would also mean that visitors could walk among the rhododendrons more easily.

TH, JULY 8, 1947

TRANSFER OF RHODODENDRONS

"They're looking wonderful," was the bulletin issued by Mr. T. Horton, superintendent of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, on the health of the rhododendrons which have been transferred from the park to an adjoining site at Brooklands.

The shift has been a lengthy job. The work started over a month ago and will not be finished for another 10 days.

At present the park is suffering from winter doldrums. There is very little to see, but work is going on steadily in preparing it for spring and summer.

In the fernery ferns at the end of their days are being replaced by younger plants.

"We're managing to cope," said Mr. Horton, when he was asked how the labour position was at the park. "We've managed to get as much staff as our funds will allow, and the position is quite satisfactory."

TH, JULY 9, 1947

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD OF DONORS GIFTS TO PUKEKURA PARK

The removal and renovation of the marble book in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, bearing the names of those who have donated money to the park was suggested by Mr. A. B. Scanlan at a meeting of the park committee in New Plymouth yesterday afternoon.

When notification was read of the bequest to the park of the late Mr. A. R. Standish, Mr. Scanlan drew attention to the state of this book and to its bad position on the hill at the north end of the upper lake. He considered there should be some form of recognition of gifts to the park.

The secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, pointed out that a plaque at Brooklands commemorated the late Mr. Newton King's gift to the town, and a slab recorded Mrs. Ann Burgess' gift of the kiosk. If the marble book were moved there would be several names to add.

The committee decided to look around for a better site for the book.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

A letter was received from Messrs. Standish, Anderson and Brokenshire, advising that they had been instructed by the trustees of the estate of Mr. A. B. Standish to advise this board that by his will Mr. Standish had left a sum of £400 unconditionally to the park board.

It was also advised at the meeting that the Borough Council had increased its subsidy to £2000.

TH, JULY 11, 1947

PARK COSTS PUKEKURA PARK AND BROOKLANDS INCOME AND COSTS COMPARED

Salaries and wages at Pukekura Park for the year ended March 31, 1947, cost £2001; maintenance £247. At Brooklands wages cost £710; maintenance cost £18. These amounts, covering the bare essentials of running a park, more than absorb the £2216 New

Plymouth Borough Council subsidy and leave a large leeway for other items to be overtaken by the park's own revenue.

Brooklands itself brought in only £45, in the rent of houses. last year £787 was spent there, leaving £732 to be found from either the subsidy or income from Pukekura Park.

The council was actually £1600, but an additional £616 was granted to wipe out a deficit.

Pukekura, fortunately, is a profitable source of income. The sportsground yielded £285 in rent, the tearoom £53. Most revenue, however, came from the fernery, which realised £383. Boats brought in £178. Largest amount on the receipt side was £772 transferred from the Sanders bequest account.

A subsidy to cover insurance was £41, tennis courts brought £7 in rent, sundries £28, and other small items account for £5.

COST OF PUKEKURA.

Total cost of keeping Pukekura Park was £2505. Largest item of the payments side, apart from wages, was the alterations to the kiosk, which cost £772. The secretary's honorarium £54. All other items absorbed £33 or less each.

Well down in the. Pukekura Park account is £23 for plants and shrubs. All other items cover various overhead costs.

Thirty-three pounds went in insurance, £24 in petrol and oil, £23 in electricity and goods, £22 to superannuation, £19 to the expenses of the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to the horticultural conference, and £17 printing and stationery. The rest, including telephone, tools, bicycle allowance (£1), water rates, cartage, and troughs, are all single figure items.

At Brooklands, plants and shrubs took £24, mower maintenance £13 and petrol and oil £10. Insurance, cartage and goods are all minor items.

Apart from the usual bank charge of 5s for each account and a small item of 6s 6d under the Brooklands account, smallest entry in the financial statement for New Plymouth's showplace is a line reading: Balance at March 31, 1947, 6s 9d.

TH, JULY 29, 1947

OLD DRAIN BLOCKED

40-YEAR-OLD DRAIN DUG UP IN PUKEKURA PARK

Because tree roots and earth have blocked them, drain pipes at the back of the kiosk in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, are being removed to a new and cleaner position. The pipes are used to drain the water from the gold fish and lily ponds in front of the ferneries and they carry away quite a large volume of water.

The drains have been down 40 years, and have never been cleaned or touched.

Workmen started out to clear the pipes of any waste rubbish, but when the pipes were unearthed the real trouble was found to be tree roots, which had managed to grow down in between some of the pipes. One pipe had been smashed.

All of them had to be cleared and renewed.

The present route of the drain winds in under trees before it meets the outlet of the main lake. The workmen decided to dig a new and straighter drain, which will cut across the open space behind the kiosk, the outlet being in almost the same position as before. Why the old drain was taken under the trees the workmen cannot understand, because it is a much longer route and must have been obvious that the roots would cause damage sooner or later.

The pipes were not cemented together, except at either end of the drain, while under the trees, apart from a small piece to keep the pipes together, there was no cement. As a result, three roots grew down between the pipes, and earth and rubbish fell through the gaps.

The new drain will be shorter and away from trees or scrub or any kind.

TH, AUGUST 9, 1947 MARBLE TABLET TO BE RENOVATED

The removal and renovation of the marble book in Pukekura Park. New Plymouth, bearing the names of those who have donated money to the park was suggested by Mr. A. B. Scanlan at a meeting of the park committee in New Plymouth yesterday afternoon.

When notification was read of the bequest to the park of the late Mr. A. R. Standish, Mr. Scanlan drew attention to the state of this book and to its bad position on the hill at the north end of the upper lake. He considered there should be some form of recognition of gifts to the park.

The secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, pointed out that a plaque at Brooklands commemorated the late Mr. Newton King's gift to the town, and a slab recorded Mrs. Ann Burgess' gift of the kiosk. If the marble book were moved there would be several names to add.

The committee decided to look around for a better site for the book.

TH, AUGUST 13, 1947 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING SPORTS AREAS WANTED FOR PLANTING COMMITTEE REAFFIRMS ITS DECISION

Reaffirmation of its decision to claim the area in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, occupied by the Park Tennis and Croquet Clubs, was expressed by the Pukekura Park Committee in a resolution at a meeting yesterday afternoon. It is the committee's intention to use the ground to plant a shelter belt.

The committee had before it three alternative schemes, and its decision was reached after long discussion.

The schemes were:

1. Leaving the two clubs where they are and take only a narrow belt for planting.
2. Expel the tennis club, and take a broader strip for planting, leaving the croquet club with three full-sized greens and two smaller ones in a line along the Victoria Road frontage.

3. Take all the land.

Among possible places to which it was suggested the tennis club could go was Western Park. A site at Brooklands was suggested for the croquet club.

A deputation, comprising the chairman, Mr. W. F. Short, Messrs. D. F. C. Saxton and L. W. Lovell, and the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, will wait on the New Plymouth Borough Council to put the scheme before them.

When a scheme on the lines of the second alternative, complete with plan and report, was presented to the meeting by Mr. Horton, the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, said he understood it was proposed to prepare a scheme leaving both clubs where they were. Mr. Horton denied knowledge of this.

COMMITTEE'S IDEA.

If the park could be protected by taking only a small area the committee should be prepared to throw overboard their previous plans, commented Mr. Short.

"Any member would be prepared to do that," said Mr. Stainton. "It was not the committee's idea to throw the clubs out. If there was an alternative it would be a happy solution to a difficult problem. It was the duty of the committee to try to find such a solution."

Mr. Saxton stressed that the committee must take the long view and look ahead 50 or 100 years. With a horticultural expert he had inspected the park recently and had formed his opinions on his advice. The committee must consider:

1. Adequate shelter from the westerly and southerly winds to protect the park's valuable flora.
2. Retaining the present height that was half the glory of the park.

It was inevitable that the pines must go. Ten years from now, he was advised, they would become dangerous. The only way to obtain adequate shelter was to take the whole area occupied by the sports clubs. It was, in any case, in their own interests to go as their greens were full of moss.

FLOWERING TREES SUGGESTED.

Mr. Saxton went on to describe how he visualised the belts of trees, and he urged that the park badly needed flowering trees, such as flowering gums and magnolias, to make a show above the pungs. Behind these would be the high shelter belt.

Mr. Saxton suggested that the tennis club could go to Western Park and the croquet club, perhaps, to Brooklands.

There was some discussion on how the clubs could be assisted if they moved.

QUESTION OF COURTS.

Mr. Lovell supported Mr. Saxton's scheme for transferring the tennis club to Western Park. He pointed out that there were no courts at New Plymouth adequate for national tournaments, and Western Park was not used a great deal in either the summer or winter, particularly in the summer. There could be hard courts for the club and grass courts for general use by the citizens.

"I agree with Mr. Saxton that we must take a long term view," said Mr. Stainton. He insisted, however, that

some aid should be given the clubs. What would the committee's position be if the borough council refused to give assistance?

Would they still take the area?

The council intended to do the levelling, said Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour.

"Surely our job is to consider the safety of Pukekura Park," said Mr. Saxton. To compromise would be a fatal blunder.

"It has been a principle underlying all borough reserves that where sports bodies have been encouraged to occupy and develop reserves there has been an unwritten law that they granted the land for all time," said Mr. Stainton.

"This is a different case altogether," replied Mr. Saxton.

As a sub-committee of the borough council the committee must abide by the principle, said Mr. Stainton.

THE PARK FIRST.

"That is the principle of the borough council, but we have got to study the beauty of Pukekura Park first," Mr. Gilmour said. "The croquet and tennis clubs are a secondary consideration."

Cries of hear, hear!

Suggestions were made that the second alternative could be used and the whole area taken over later. In reply to Mr. Lovell, Mr. Horton said the original scheme to take the whole area was the best. In the modified scheme he could closely approach the original scheme, but if it was to be extended later why not do it now.

"It's either in or out," commented Mr. H. V. McCready.

On the motion of Mr. Saxton, seconded by Mr. Lovell, it was unanimously decided to ask the clubs to vacate by Easter, 1949.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Also noted at the meeting were wage increases for Messrs. Waddle, Black and Parker, from £6 4s to £6 10s. Miss I. Small from £2 15s to £3.

TH, SEPTEMBER 10, 1947 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING REMOVAL OF TREES REQUEST FROM P. AND T. DEPARTMENT OPPOSED BY COMMITTEE

A request that a number of the pine and gum trees along Victoria and the beginning of Brooklands Roads, New Plymouth, be felled was read at a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee in New Plymouth yesterday, from the telegraph engineer's office. A letter accompanying the request stated that the trees would menace the improved main arterial toll route proposed when the new automatic telephone exchange was installed.

"When the new automatic telephone exchange is installed in Courtenay Street," stated the letter, "it will be necessary, in order that a large increase may be made in the toll outlets from this town, for the toll circuits leading north to Auckland and south to Wellington to be placed on completely separate routes. At the present time the lines in both these

directions are on the same common pole line between the chief post office and Eliot Street.

"In order to provide the necessary separation which is essential for technical reasons now that 12-channel high frequency telephone systems are to be used, the department will be constructing the new toll lines along Carrington, Victoria and Brooklands Roads and Tarahua Road to join the old line near the Henui River.

HEIGHT OF TREES.

"In view of the construction of this toll line it will be necessary also to ensure that no trees are permitted to grow to such a height that they are within falling distance of the new line, which means that no trees higher than 20 feet should be permitted to grow within 25 feet of the line and no trees higher than 40 feet should be permitted to grow within 45 feet of the line," the letter concluded.

The New Plymouth Borough Council's electrical engineer, Mr. W. H. Huggett, attended the meeting to advise and explain the situation to the committee.

Mr. Huggett said the main telegraph and toll lines for the new exchange would be coming down the side of the street where the trees were causing obstruction.

Asked why the wires could not be moved to the other side where the borough poles were, Mr. Huggett said it would be impossible to carry the wires on the same poles. The new system of wires would be taking six channels.

A suggestion was made that the wires go underground. Mr. Huggett said it would be impossible to do so. The P. and T. Department would not do that.

Because of technical difficulties, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton said the wires could not be taken underground.

Referring to the legal position. Mr. P. E. Stainton said the P. and T. Department had the right to remove all obstructions at the owner's cost. If the owner failed to remove them, when asked to, the department could do it anyway, still at the owner's expense.

"Taking a long view of the matter," Mr. Saxton said, "we would have to remove the trees eventually."

NO OPTION.

"It appears we have no option but to cut the trees down," said the chairman, Mr. W. F. Short. "However, I would go so far as I could to stop it," he added.

It was decided to ask the town clerk, Mr. F. T. Bellringer, to inquire what the legal position was.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members inspected the trees at the park to decide which would be cut down.

TH, OCTOBER 15, 1947 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Trees to be Removed.

The blue gum trees at the Vogeltown entrance to Pukekura Park are to be removed, following a decision reached by the park committee at a meeting in New Plymouth yesterday.

TH, OCTOBER 24, 1947

CANNON HILL

RESTORING HISTORIC SPOT

Renovation of historic Cannon Hill in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, has begun, and as the clean-up programme advances up from its base, what has for some years been a dishevelled eye-sore will again take a place in the park in keeping with its importance.

Work so far has reached the level of the marble memorial book, which holds the names of deceased benefactors to the park. This book is to be removed, cleaned and brought up to date. Banks to this level have been cleaned, revealing the 12-foot whalebones that form a Gothic arch over the book. The pathway from one side has been widened and gravelled, and steps have been put in order.

The park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, said to-day that this was only a beginning, and as opportunity offered the work would be extended to the top. He stressed, however, that the old pinus Insignis at the top was very dangerous, and permanent improvements would not be made until it had been removed.

Cannon Hill, so named because of three cannons that formerly stood there, is the most significant spots in the park, and but for a tangled mass of branches, would give one of the most beautiful views of the upper lake, at the end of which it stands. It was here on May 29, 1876, that the first tree was planted, crowning the efforts of the men who had struggled for so long to provide the young settlement with future beauty spots.

Later three cannons were placed on the hill, but New Plymouth's old friends the vandals were ever busy, and after the guns had been partly dismantled and sometimes—in spite of being bolted to concrete emplacements—rolled down the hill, they were removed to the museum.

The top of Cannon Hill to-day is a waste of broad-leaved plantain. Weeds and grass have run wild and have encroached on the tree concrete slabs where the cannons stood, tangled branches conceal the lake, and the aged pinus insignis is a constant threat to the few curious visitors who have the inclination to penetrate the shrubs barricading the upper pathway. To repair years of neglect and restore the hill is a task the park staff have now begun.

TH, NOVEMBER 11, 1947 TWENTY-POUND EEL CAUGHT

A large eel, probably responsible for devouring several ducklings on the lake at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, was landed at 12.30 p.m. to-day after a tough struggle.

The two fishermen who caught the lake-dweller, which is over four feet long and weighs around 20lb., were Constable C. Smillie and Mr. J. E. Bailey, both of New Plymouth. They had gone to the park to feed the ducks, but were prepared to snare the eel it he put in an appearance.

"We had seen hint in the lake before," said Mr. Bailey. "It took us five minutes to land him and he took a lot of killing."

Mr. Bailey considered that eels of this size and strength were not only a danger

to the newly-hatched ducklings, but to any small child who might fall in the lake.

TH, NOVEMBER 12, 1947

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

With a debit balance of £755 8s 1d, and their next subsidy of £500 not due until December, the Pukekura Park committee, New Plymouth, is faced with an outsize financial headache.

At yesterday's meeting of the committee, the chairman, Mr. W. F. Short, said the borough council had promised the committee extra funds.

Mr. Stainton said the council had made no final decision, because it wanted to know its full commitments first.

The season was approaching when revenue from boats was received, but this would not nearly bridge the gap, he added. The council appreciated that the work had to be done, and the only way to have it done was by paying.

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD TO SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

TREE-PLANTING PLANS DISCUSSED AT NEW PLYMOUTH.

The Pukekura Park Committee, after discussing alternative proposals for the clearing of certain areas of Pukekura Park and the planting of trees, decided at its meeting at New Plymouth yesterday to seek the advice of Mr. P. Black, former superintendent of reserves, Palmerston North, who is to visit New Plymouth shortly. He will be acquainted with all aspects of the problem and asked for his views.

"The numerous conferences and inspections of the park we have already had relative to tree planting in the tennis court area, seem to have been so much waste of time," said Mr. D. F. C. Saxton. Pointing out that the committee had recently decided unanimously that, in the interests of the park the tennis and croquet courts should be moved elsewhere, and that because this entailed major financial expenditure the decision had been referred to the borough council, Mr. Saxton said that the matter had now dragged on so long that the borough council was going out of office without making a decision, and presumably the committee would have to start all over again with the new council.

RESTRICTION ON DEVELOPMENT

After the last conference on the site between the borough council and other interested parties, the impression had been gained that the council members felt they could not undertake both the immediate urgent expenditure on maintenance of approximately £2600, and the cost of finding a new home for the tennis and croquet players, continued Mr. Saxton. If this were so, it was quite understandable if the council had no other money to spend except its present revenue from rates. Was the development of New Plymouth and its amenities to be prejudiced for all time by this restriction?

It was quite plain that the council could not possibly do the work it should in any direction without increased revenue from somewhere. Every businessman knew that the costs of running his business had nearly doubled over the last 10 years. Yet the council was expected not only to do the work it did before

without rate increases or loans, but to undertake a great deal of other new work. It simply could not be done.

Comparison with other Towns

The fact remained that although New Plymouth considered it had finer parks and reserves than any other municipality in New Zealand, it was spending substantially less on them than places such as Napier, Wanganui, Hastings and Palmerston North. In addition to current subsidies, Hastings intended to undertake a loan of £39,000 for park extension, and Wellington was going to the ratepayers this month for authority to raise a loan of £104,000 for a similar purpose.

If the New Plymouth Borough Council intended to attempt to get along on its present revenue, Pukekura Park would be just one of the public assets that would suffer disastrously, said Mr. Saxton. He considered that if the council tried to compromise by felling trees and planting shelter on the eastern boundary of the existing tennis courts, it would so prejudice the safety and proper development of the park that there would be no recovery from this lamentable lack of courage and vision.

He would be sorry to see the committee throw its policy overboard because of the financial difficulties, said the chairman, Mr. W. F. Short.

The present borough council did not consider it fair to commit the new council to something that it had not been able to finance, said Mr. L. W. F. Lovell.

ALTERNATIVE PLAN

Should the alternative proposal be proved to be less expensive and just as effective as the other, the committee should be "big" enough to alter its previous decision, said the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton. The new proposal would also avoid the need for the tennis and croquet clubs to vacate the area. Members of the committee who met at the park had, with the exception of the chairman, agreed that the alternative proposal was the better.

"I have always favoured, as Mr. Saxton proposes, the planning of the area as a whole," said Mr. Eliot King. He agreed with the modified scheme. He understood that the superintendent's earlier proposal was for a fringe of trees on the crest of the hill and he had not considered that it would give enough background. The new plan was to move the tennis club boundary some distance to allow for the planting of a shelter belt on the western boundary; to clear the pines up to the Vogeltown gate, preparatory to planting, leaving the trees on the south side until the others grew up. Under this plan, the big trees below the track would still give the necessary height for background, which was one of the majestic features of the park, while the others grew.

GROWTH OF YOUNGER TREES

By the time the big trees had to come down, the young ones would have grown, said Mr. Stainton.

Although a new plan had been suggested, it did not mean that the previous one was not good, said the superintendent of the park, Mr. T. Horton. Upon closer investigation, however, he became convinced that the new plan was the better and would not deprive two sports bodies of their grounds. Also, under the new proposal,

the planting could be done without affecting the majestic scene from the other side of the lake as the trees below the path would be left. There would be a belt about two chains wide on the Vogeltown side of the park, providing good shelter for the area which was to be planted.

The idea was to find a scheme which was satisfactory and efficient, said Mr. Stainton. Both plans should be considered and, if either was found to be unsuitable it should be thrown out.

Mr. Saxton then moved that the committee obtain expert advice on the matter.

Mr. F. Parker pointed out that trees planted in less satisfactory positions than the area now proposed had thrived.

TH, DECEMBER 17, 1947

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

During the fine weather much of the work which had accumulated during the war had been overtaken, stated Mr. T. Horton, park superintendent, in his report presented at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park committee in New Plymouth yesterday. Two extra men had been employed as casual labour. The press box had been painted and repaired and the Kiosk was to be painted, but would not be ready until after the holidays.

TDN, DECEMBER 17, 1947

Mr. M. J. Neville was appointed to the Pukekura Park Committee at a meeting of the committee at New Plymouth yesterday. He will represent the New Plymouth Borough Council on the committee.

TH, DECEMBER 30, 1947

FEWER VISITORS EPIDEMIC'S EFFECT ON PARK FERNERY AND BOATS

The crowds who seek the refreshing coolness of the Pukekura Park fernery in New Plymouth, the amateur oarsmen who go rowing on the lake, and the children who make a daily visit to feed the ducks have noticeably dwindled over the Christmas holiday period this year.

Cause of the falling-off is the infantile paralysis outbreak (polio), which has kept New Plymouth residents, who usually bring their children to the park, at home and has cancelled out many families' plans for coming to New Plymouth.

Although his fernery and boat figures have not yet been completed, the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, said this afternoon that he had noticed a definite drop in the numbers passing through the fernery and using the boats.

A large percentage of the visitors, who had seen the finest display of begonias for this time of the year in the fernery's history, had come from Auckland and Wellington, added Mr. Horton.

On Christmas and Boxing Days very few people had used the boats, but since Saturday the numbers had picked up.

1948

Thomas Horton gave his notice of resignation at the beginning of May, to take effect on March 31, 1949.

The need for a ladies dressing shed at the sportsground was highlighted by a deputation from a number of local sports groups. It was pointed out that the women competitors had to change in their cars or the bushes because of the lack of facilities. It was also pointed out that there was every possibility that the following year the New Zealand women's and junior track and field athletic championships would be held at New Plymouth. The committee was in full agreement with the deputation and promised they would make it a priority.

The ladies changing room got the go-ahead to be built at the southwest corner of the sports field. To site the building and a future curators office it was necessary to cut into the bank on the west side of the southern terrace hill. It was deemed prudent to remove nine pinus insignis on the side of the hill, this caused quite a stir. The building was designed by the borough engineer, Mr. R. F. Mainland and built by Messrs. Curd Bros. who tendered a price of £1317 10s.

With the finance situation being dire lots of thought was focussed on how people could help the park and one suggestion was forming a group called "Society of Friends of Pukekura Park."

George Huthnance was appointed to the committee as the representative of the Institute of Horticulture, he had worked at the park prior to the war and was running the Fernery before being called up to serve his country in 1942.

The first Carols by Candlelight was organised in 1948 which was a collaborative effort between the park committee, the Y.W.C.A. and the Rotary Club. The event was a huge success, notwithstanding the inclement weather on the night.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce had been very critical of the park committee in 1947 and when challenged by Mr. Stainton, secretary of the park committee was told that it was not the intention of the junior chamber to raise money, however they must have taken the comment to heart and in 1949 embarked on a fundraising drive to help the park and raised a sum of £475.



Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. Whites Aviation Ltd: Photographs. Ref: WA-21723-G
Alexander Turnbull library, Wellington, NZ

**TH, JANUARY 5, 1948
EVENING RECITAL
BAND AT PUKEIWA PARK**

An evening recital at the band rotunda in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, by the Taranaki Regimental-New Plymouth Municipal Band drew one of the largest crowds that has been seen at an evening recital for many years.

The audience was scattered about the park in an atmosphere of relaxation and the enjoyment of the programme was marked by appreciative applause from many directions. One of the most popular items was a selection of airs from the Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera, "The Pirates of Penzance."

The recital marked the last appearance at New Plymouth, before his departure for Christchurch, of the band's solo cornet player, Brian Scrivener. Only 21 years of age he has been a member of the band since he was 13, and as bugler for Anzac Day services, and for military ceremonies and funerals, he has given real service to the town, in addition to his work as a bandsman.

**TH, JANUARY 15, 1948
STRIKING DISPLAY
BEGONIAS AT PARK
THE BEST SHOW EVER**

Resulting in one of the finest displays of begonias in New Zealand, and certainly the best ever seen at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, post-war expansion plans at the park's fernery, begonia house and conservatory, given a fillip by an exceptionally early season, have made great strides towards making this attraction a horticultural highlight of the Dominion.

Leaving commercial enterprises apart, Pukekura Park's begonia display has always been recognised as ranking among the best in the country, and, though the park in general, struggling along with a meagre purse, has come in for criticism, steady progress has been going on in this particular corner.

To-day 1500 pots of begonias, representing almost every one of the dozen or so species, fill not only the original begonia house, but are massed in a striking display in the conservatory to such effect that visitors invariably select the conservatory as their preference. This is the first year that it has been possible to display begonias in both houses.

All this is the result of a long range plan, that last year reached the stage of 5000 seedlings. From these were culled the rejects, and the best blooms were added to the existing display to bring the grand total this year to 1500. In addition there are 500 of other flowers.

BEST OF SEASON.

Normally the best of the season starts in late January. This season there was a fine display for Christmas visitors to see, and for another six weeks or so from now the display will be at its best.

Illustrating the importance of artistic display, the conservatory is a combination fernery and begonia house, in which the dark green of the ferns sets

off the brilliance of the flowers. In a central island, the begonias pyramid up in multi-shades that range from delicate pastels to rich vermilion. Ferns, among which some of the other 500 flowers in the conservatory are spread around the base, their sornbreness relieved by the colourful coleus, the tropical island plant whose leaves resemble something from a Disney technicolour film.

Ferns and begonias decorate the walls, and along one side a newly constructed nursery shelf, formed of earth, makes seedlings that will be part of next year's display, part of this year's show also.

Featured in the conservatory, too, is an excellent specimen of the South American lapogeria (rosea perfecta), a vine-like plant from which hang rose coloured, bell shaped flowers. The petals, unlike most flowers, are hard and leathery, and can be grasped quite firmly without damaging them. This plant is now just beginning to flower.

BEGONIA HOUSE.

Beside the conservatory, the true begonia house is stiffly formal, with its neat rows of begonias on shelves, but the massed display that faces the visitor as he enters through the tunnel is as striking as ever. Here the coleus and a few ferns lend some variety, but the emphasis is strictly on begonias.

A fair guide to the appeal of these displays is to be found in the visitors' book. Sifting the serious from the frivolous and trite, such reliable opinions as "One of the best in New Zealand; ferns excellent, begonias brilliant," the comment of a visitor from Christchurch botanical gardens, are found. There are hosts of "very goods" and "excellents," and even a few "multi buenos," the colloquial Italian expression of appreciation brought home by the 2nd N.Z.E.F. More unusual among recent entries are, "Back again shortly; but definitely," and "Thanks for the pleasure."

For those about to be married, there is a hint in the entry, "Honeymooners' paradise."

**TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1948
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
APATHY TO PARK**

FEW NEW PLYMOUTH VISITORS

Present: Messrs. W. F. Short, E. R. C. Gilmour, K. Lippiatt, K. Ward, D. F. C. Saxton, F. Parker, M. J. Neville. Mrs. J. Davie. Mr. P. E. Stainton (Sec) and Mr. T. Horton (Sup).

Apathy by the people of New Plymouth to the beauties of Pukekura Park was deplored by the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, in his report to the Pukekura Park Committee at a meeting yesterday afternoon.

This year, said Mr. Horton, the park had been able to present its finest display of begonias, but few New Plymouth residents went to see it.

"This apathy," he continued, "is discouraging and hard to understand, especially as the place is owned by the municipality, and therefore belongs to the people."

In spite of health restrictions, more people visited Pukekura Park, at Christmas and New Year than during the previous few holiday seasons. Between Christmas and January 30, 4289 people visited the fernery and 4409 used the boats, giving a return of £224. This represented an increase of 29 for the fernery and 1125 for the boats, and the cash received an increase of £28.

**NEED AT PARK
ACCOMMODATION FOR WOMEN
REQUEST TO COMMITTEE**

Dressing sheds at Pukekura Park sportsground for women were requested by a deputation from the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club and the Girls' Marching Association that waited on the Pukekura Park Committee at a meeting yesterday afternoon.

After the deputation had made their request the chairman, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, made it clear that the committee were in complete agreement with the request, but that available finance governed whether the accommodation could be built.

The deputation consisted of Messrs. N. J. T. Webster and C. W. Broad (athletic club) and W. S. Hopewell (Girls' Marching Association). Mr. Webster said that Mr. R. Fulton, representing the Taranaki Council of Sport and the Labour Day Sports Committee, was also to have attended.

Presenting the deputation's case, Mr. Webster pointed out that at present women competitors in sporting events had to change in cars or in the bushes. There was every possibility that next year the New Zealand women's and junior track and field athletic championships would be held at New Plymouth. That would mean that more than 100 women athletes from all parts of New Zealand would be present. In addition, district and provincial championships were held at New Plymouth annually, and the club also ran weekly sports meetings.

SUGGESTED BUILDING.

The club's suggestion was for a building containing two rooms each measuring 15ft. by 12 feet, with showers and other amenities at the rear. The suggested site was on the righthand side of the southern terrace.

The holding of the annual Taranaki girls' marching championships at New Plymouth, the proposal to hold the New Zealand championships at New Plymouth in 1949 or 1950 and the projected visit of an American team were the reasons advanced by Mr. Hopewell for the need for women's accommodation.

Mr. Broad also supported the request.

The committee agreed entirely with the deputation's submissions, said Mr. Saxton. The committee had a list of urgent works, and this had an A1 priority. The plan of work had been submitted to the New Plymouth Borough Council and Mr. Saxton was hopeful that some progress might be made in the near future.

Mr. Saxton asked Mr. Webster if it was correct that the athletic club intended moving their activities to Rugby Park.

Mr. Webster explained that there had been a scheme—deferred because of the poliomyelitis precautions—to form a second club, which it had been hoped to base on Rugby Park. There was no suggestion at the moment of the present club going there, although Rugby Park had the attraction of a 440-yard track.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1948
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
PARK GRANT OVERDRAWN BY
£1331

COMMITTEE CHIDED BY COUNCIL
CHIDED by the New Plymouth Borough Council for overdrawing their grant by £1331 without consulting the council, the Pukekura Park Committee, at a meeting yesterday afternoon, decided to go to the council when they meet on Monday night so that they can place before new councillors full facts of the committee's financial position.

This is the result of a discussion that was provoked by a statement by the Mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, that the council did not approve of the committee's overdrawing to such an extent on their own initiative. The reply of the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, was that all accounts were paid by the borough treasurer, so that the council must know the committee's position at any time.

During the discussion yesterday, it was pointed out that while the borough council's annual grant had been £2000, wages alone accounted for £3500 of the committee's expenditure. The overdrawn amount will be reduced when the committee receive their quarterly-paid grant of £500.

The committee had before them the request of a deputation for accommodation for women competitors at sporting events. In his monthly report to the committee, the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reiterated the urgency of checking the park's decline.

Though the council recognised the committee's difficult financial position, they felt, said Mr. Gilmour, that the committee should live within their means unless they asked for permission to overdraw. Mr. Stainton had been to the council and explained that the committee had overdrawn by £650. The council had decided not to act until it had been decided what was to be done about moving the Park Tennis and Croquet Clubs, which would involve an additional expenditure of £2000 or £3000. Now, however the amount overdrawn was £1331.

Mr. Gilmour realised that increases in costs and wages had been mainly responsible for this, and under the circumstances he could not see how the park could manage. However, to place the committee's business on a sound basis, it was felt that the council should be consulted before more was spent.

UNBUSINESSLIKE.

"It seems most unbusinesslike for the council to budget and for an outside committee to incur a large overdraft,"

said Mr. K. M. Ward, who is a councillor. He could not see why the committee could not come nearer to their budget. If they needed £4000, they must have it.

Mr. W. F. Short pointed out that the committee had been overdrawing for some time and that the only alternative was to dismiss some of the staff. The amount involved covered maintenance only, and did not include capital expenditure.

"The council all realise that they have got to give you more money," replied Mr. Gilmour. "I don't want the committee or the public to think that the council is not willing to help the park. We have got to do everything possible to bring it back to what it was."

He again explained that the council's objection was to the committee overdrawing without consulting the council.

BANKRUPT ESTATE.

"We are in the unfortunate position of being the heirs, as it were, to a bankrupt estate," said the chairman, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton. He suggested that, as many of the committee members were new to the job, a big meeting should be held several months hence when they would have a better grip of park affairs, and at which they could discuss fully the park's future. He agreed in principle with what Mr. Gilmour had said, but the simple fact was that it was not practicable for the committee to live within its income.

The unsatisfactory position had been created by the council themselves, said Mr. Stainton. The council were fully aware that it was impossible to work Pukekura Park and maintain its standard on the subsidy available. Representatives of the committee had waited on the previous council a number of times and had presented the financial position to them. The council had said they would do their best to adjust it at the end of the year.

"We do not budget," continued Mr. Stainton. "We receive an allocation from the council. We are allocated £2000. The total wages for the park are £3500. Can you run your businesses without running into a debit with figures like that?"

"It is only right that all new councillors should be fully acquainted with our position as they are the only people—except for the revenue from the boats and fernery, which is comparatively small—who can provide us with the necessary money. The council are the deciding factor in governing whether the park is maintained at the standard required by the town or whether the finances are to be limited and the park to recede. Those are the plain facts."

FACTS KNOWN.

Mr. Stainton went on to explain that the committee did not pay one account or sign one cheque. All accounts were paid through the treasurer's department, and the committee's financial position was available to the council. The only statement the committee received was that forwarded to them at their meetings.

"The full facts of Pukekura Park's accounts should be and are known to the council," said Mr. Stainton, "and if there is any complaint, it should be laid at their own door."

It was 12 months last November, he continued, since the superintendent's special report on the park had been presented. The council had not yet considered it. It had been made clear to the finance committee that certain work had to go on. The committee would be failing in their duty as representatives of the council if they allowed the condition of the park to deteriorate to a dangerous state.

"There are necessary things that have to be gone on with," added Mr. Stainton. "I know that only the minimum has been done."

Mr. Horton: Quite correct.

"This committee should meet the new council so that they can be as fully informed as the outgoing council," continued Mr. Stainton, "and so that they can be in a position to decide what standard the park should be kept at. If they decide the money is not available, we must dispense with some of the staff."

£70 A WEEK FOR WAGES

In the ensuing discussion, it was stated the wages amounted to \$70 a week. Mr. Horton told the meeting that his staff numbered about 10 or 11, although there had been several extra men employed during the holiday period.

Mr. K. Lippiatt said that Western Park received a subsidy of £250 yearly and that wages were £312. Sanders Park received £20. He suggested that the position of all parks should be reviewed. After it had been pointed out that the finance committee of the council was to meet on Monday night to fix the estimates, the committee appointed Messrs. Saxton, M. J. Neville, Short and Stainton to wait on the finance committee to acquaint them with the position.

TH, FEBRUARY 17, 1948
PARK COULD LIVE WITHIN £3200
SUBMISSIONS TO COUNCIL

An undertaking that if £3200 were granted to the Pukekura Park Committee for the next financial year, the committee would live within that, was given to the New Plymouth Borough Council last night by the committee's chairman, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton.

A deputation from the committee that met the council estimated this year's deficit at £1335.

The committee's secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, explaining why the council had not been consulted when the current deficit reached £1331—a point on which the council reprimanded the committee at a recent meeting—stated that at the committee's December meeting the deficit was reported to be £500. Apparently the deficit was much greater than was shown in the committee's statement, but some expenditure to that date had not been posted.

The deputation comprised Messrs. Saxton, W. F. Short, M. J. Neville, Stainton and T. Horton (park superintendent.). A financial statement, prepared by the superintendent, showing an anticipated deficit of £1335 for the current year and £966 for the next financial year was presented to the council by Mr. Saxton when he put the deputation's case.

"The major reason for the serious situation is the very heavy increase in wages," said Mr. Saxton. "Since 1942-43 wages have increased by £1,525, but the subsidy from the borough council has been increased by only £350 from £1,650 to approximately £2,000.

"Twenty-five years ago, Pukekura Park comprised about 57 acres, and the staff consisted of the superintendent and three men, one of whom was engaged principally on the sports ground," Mr. Saxton continued. "Since then, various parts of the park have been developed substantially. Extensive tree planting was undertaken, and, most important of all, over 90 acres was added to the park in the adjoining Brooklands, Highlands and Maranui properties. To tend this huge area of 150 acres, the committee now employs a permanent staff of eight persons in addition to the superintendent. Of these, two are employed permanently at Brooklands and two on the fernery. The sports ground absorbs one man full time, with additional calls on the other staff at certain periods.

"From these figures it will be seen that the general maintenance of a much more highly developed park 25 years ago is effected by only a fraction more staff than employed 25 years ago.

ABSOLUTE MINIMUM.

"The committee considers this to be the absolute minimum staff for ordinary maintenance of the park. In fact there is much of the park that cannot be maintained. Shorter hours and substantial increases in wages have a profound effect on both the expenditure and facilities of the park, and penal rates have made it extremely difficult to continue facilities such as the operation of the boats on the lake and supervision of the fernery during the week-end. Were it not for the sacrifice of the superintendent and the loyal work of the staff, continuation of these facilities, even in part, would be practically impossible.

Mr. Saxton reviewed the wages position, and gave his opinion that the actual deficit for next year, would be nearer £1250, than the £966 estimated by Mr. Horton.

"I must repeat that the estimate caters for bare maintenance only, on the scale that has prevailed during the past two years, which as visitors to the park know, is really insufficient to maintain the park without steady deterioration," said Mr. Saxton. "This does not take into account very urgent and necessary work which was scheduled last year after careful consideration and submitted to the last borough council.

"A conservative estimate of the most urgent of these requirements would be approximately £2,500. This does not take into account the cleaning of silt from the lakes, which is a major task of urgency; nor does it take into account any major development whatever in the park.

"Summarising the position, the committee feels it is unable to carry on the bare work of current maintenance, excluding buildings, unless the subsidy from the borough council is increased from £2,000 to £3,200. This still leaves the problem of the urgent work on buildings etc. for which at least another £2,500 is required in the near future.

"The committee has been the recipient of several small bequests yielding an annual revenue so small that it does not materially affect the position," concluded Mr. Saxton. "Of the one major bequest, namely the Saunders bequest, £1,156 remains, which could be applied to capital expenditure though not to general maintenance."

COUNCIL NOT CONSULTED.

The main complaint of the council was against the expenditure in excess of the committee's allocation without consulting the council, pointed out the Mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour. He realised that.

COST OF PARKS

The Pukekura Park Committee was aware of the extreme difficulty of the New Plymouth Borough Council in financing its commitments to-day from revenue which has not increased with soaring costs, but it respectfully suggested that in its natural park and playground assets, in particular Pukekura park, New Plymouth possesses infinitely more in quality and variety than Napier, Hastings, Palmerston North or Wanganui, said Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, chairman of the committee, when he made his submissions to the council last night.

Yet on a total of 18 parks and reserves, including all municipal sportsgrounds, Egmont National Park and Oakura Beach the New Plymouth Borough Council had in the past contributed substantially less in subsidies than any of the other four towns mentioned.

In comparison with New Plymouth's £7,000 a year Napier spends £9,000, Wanganui nearly £10,000, Palmerston North more than £6,000 and Hastings £5,000 plus a recent loan of £39,000 for park development.

the over-spending of the grant could not be helped. It was not the council's wish that the grant should not be sufficient to carry on.

"We can't let Pukekura Park go back," continued Mr. Gilmour. "It is the greatest asset we have. If we were to give you £3,200 next year, could you keep within that?"

Mr. Saxton gave his assurance. If the committee did not get £3200 either the boats or the fernery would have to go.

Replying to Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Stainton said that the committee had always come to the council when their allocation was exceeded. Had it been realised that they had overdrawn to the extent of £1331, they would certainly have come to the council in this case.

The council referred the deputation's submissions to the finance committee.

An inspection or both Pukekura and Kawarua Parks is to be made by the council.

TH, MARCH 29, 1948 DAMAGE TO PARK TREES BROKEN; FLOWERS TRAMPLED

"I would be very pleased if a prosecution would take place as a warning," was the comment of Pukekura Park's superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to-day, referring to damage to the park by vandals on Saturday.

Every year there was damage done to the walnut and chestnut trees at a time when the nuts were ripening, said Mr. Horton. To obtain the nuts, people were striking the trees with big sticks. All efforts to stop this practice had failed as it apparently took place early in the morning or after the staff had left in the evening.

About fourteen young girls were found holding a party in the bush, and making large patterns and designs on the ground with scores and perhaps hundreds of severed fern fronds.

TH, APRIL 28, 1948 OVER 600 ON PARADE TARANAKI GUIDES AND SCOUTS GREETINGS TO WORLD CHIEF

Guides and Brownies from all over Taranaki converged on New Plymouth to-day to greet their World Chief, Lady Baden-Powell. Joining with them in their parade were Boy Scouts and Cubs.

About 180 Guides, 160 Brownies, 22 Guiders, 250 Scouts and Cubs formed up at the New Plymouth Post Office shortly before 1.30 this afternoon, and headed



by the recently formed New Plymouth Boys' High School band, marched through Devon Street to Pukekura Park,

where their Chief took the salute at the march-past and then addressed them.

Devon Street was lined with people, who were obviously impressed with this well-turned-out parade of over 600 of Taranaki's youth.

It was a brilliant display, the sun catching badges and buckles polished to dazzling brilliance in honour of the World Chief Guide, the colours of the various companies gaily snapping in the breeze and the blues, greens and khaki of the uniforms blending into an attractive band of colour as the parade marched eagerly towards Pukekura Park, where most of the youngsters were to see Lady Baden-Powell for the first time.

Miss K. Ellett, district captain, New Plymouth, was in charge of the parade.

Among the Guides on parade were several Polish girls who are attending the New Plymouth Convent. They were wearing the lovely Polish badge, the Maltese cross with the laurel wreath entwined round the arms of the Cross, the Scout fleur-de-lys in the centre, and the word Czuwaj, Polish for Be Prepared, engraved on the cross.

At the park the Chief Guide was escorted by Miss S. Lysaght, provincial commissioner.

Lady Baden-Powell's own Standard, which was to have been carried by a special colour party, was not available, for owing to a misunderstanding it had been sent on from Marton to Auckland.

New Zealand's chief guide commissioner Miss Ruth Herrick, who was to have accompanied Lady Baden-Powell to New Plymouth, was unable to travel because of a severe chill and will rejoin the Chief Guide at Auckland.

Before the parade, an excited crowd of guides from districts outside New Plymouth gathered at St. Mary's Hall to talk about the afternoon's rally and have a lunch specially provided for them.

The diminutive Brownies earned a special cheer from the crowd at the Park. To them went the honour of giving their Chief Guide a very enthusiastic "Pack Howl," to which Lady Baden-Powell, standing in the middle of their circle, replied: "That is nice," and requested a repeat performance. She then shook hands with many of the Brownies.

After congratulating the parade for their fine turn-out, Lady Baden-Powell said she had had rallies in a market square, on a race-course and a field but never in such a lovely place as Pukekura Park.

She brought to the parade the "loving greetings" of their millions of sister guides and brother scouts "far across the sea," and she would take back with her the message that New Zealand Guides and Scouts were "a happy cheery branch of the world family."

"I hope you will all go ahead full of zeal to make your Guiding even lovelier than ever," she concluded.

After her address she was given three cheers, and while she inspected the Guides and Scouts dismissed the Brownies and Cubs to either end of the

park to have "a good play so they would not be bored."

Permission for the parade and the assembly of the children at the park was given by the medical officer of health for the district, Dr. E. W. Kinsey.

TH, MAY 5, 1948
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
AS BAD AS EVER
VANDALISM AND CYCLE RIDING
COMMITTEE MAY TAKE LEGAL
ACTION

With vandalism and bicycle riding in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, as bad as ever, the park committee last night instructed its secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, to confer with the borough solicitor, Mr. F. T. Bellringer, over what legal action can be taken.

As well, the appointment of wardens from the Brooklands settlement is to be investigated, and the co-operation of the Brooklands State House Tenants' Association sought.

While on an inspection of Brooklands recently he had found a man throwing sticks up into the chestnut tree, said Mr. D. F. C. Saxton. He had obtained his name and address.

The committee will consider what action is to be taken.

Following the discovery of damage to ferns, the chestnut and walnut trees in Brooklands, he had written to the headmasters of the Vogeltown and Welbourn schools, pupils were suspected of the vandalism. Both headmasters had addressed their pupils, and the prefects of the Welbourn school had written to the committee regretting that their school had been involved, continued the chairman.

Bicycle riding in the park was a real danger, he continued. There were two main groups responsible; high school boys who used the paths round the lake as a speed-way in the week-ends and people from the State House settlement who cycled to work through the park.

He had spoken to Mr. G. J. McNaught, principal of the New Plymouth Boys' High School, who had said that he hoped some of the boys would be taken to court and taught a lesson.

TREATMENT FOR CHESTNUT TREE.

Expert opinion on the condition of the chestnut tree in Brooklands, which is believed to be suffering from borer, is to be obtained by the Pukekura Park committee, and the necessary treatment carried out immediately.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

The chairman advised that he had received the resignation of Thomas Horton, due to advancing age, to take effect on March 31, 1949.

TH, JUNE 2, 1948
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

THE land occupied by the Pukekura Park tennis and croquet clubs is to be resumed by the park committee by March 31, 1952, and no future tenure is to be given under any consideration.

The clubs are to be informed that the committee regrets it has no power or

resources to compensate them or find them a new home, and the suggestion is to be made that the question be discussed with the Borough Council when the committee will give its support.

These decisions were reached unanimously at a meeting of the committee in New Plymouth last night.

The first resolution was moved by Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour and seconded by Mr. W. F. Short, and the second moved by Mr. D. F. Saxton, chairman, and seconded by Mr. F. Parker.

Before the meeting were reports on the area occupied by the clubs, from Mr. E. Hutt, Director of Parks and Reserves, Wellington. Mr. V. C. Davies, New Plymouth, and Mr. Saxton. The suggestions made were:—

"ONLY POSSIBLE COURSE."

Mr. Hutt: In the best interests of the park the committee should immediately resume possession of all the land now used for tennis and croquet. This seems to be the only possible course. New Plymouth, with its many undeveloped or partly developed reserves, would have little difficulty in finding a new home for the displaced players.

Neither of the compromises that a strip of say 20 feet along the east side of the tennis courts be resumed by the committee and shelter and other trees be planted or that half a dozen tall pine trees nearest to the courts be felled immediately, and a line of trees be planted in the vacant space alongside the courts' boundary fence which would be moved a few feet closer to the tennis playing area are satisfactory. Ultimately they would prove unsatisfactory to tennis and croquet.

If the land were retaken by the committee, main planting should start about 30 feet from the boundary of Victoria Road, and should comprise mainly coniferous trees planted for shelter, background and skyscape, and correct blending of foliage colours. The strip between the main shelter trees and Victoria Road, if planted with foliage, flowering shrubs and dwarf trees would make an attractive street frontage.

REPLANTING SCHEME.

Mr. Davies: Re-plant with suitable trees an area from the road side; in front, with low evergreen ornamental trees, inside, medium growing ornamental trees, middle, large growing evergreen trees which will stand westerly and southerly winds and give the required height in approximately 30 to 40 years. This planting would take a 50-60ft. strip inside the road boundary. Leave further planting inside this belt, until old pines have been felled, in about 10-15 years, and then plant the eastern side of this new belt with large, medium, bright coloured trees. The total area would be a strip about 100 to 125ft. wide. Plant trees of somewhat similar growth, but ones that will give an irregular skyline.

Alternative schemes would be most unsuitable.

Mr. Saxton: The area occupied by the two clubs should be planted by the committee. Any alternatives would be a short-sighted and irreparable blunder. I suggest planting tall, quick-growing

background trees west of the brow of the hill, shelter and perhaps ornamental trees between the skyline trees and Victoria Road, and clumps of colour trees along the side of the hill east of the skyline trees. An ideal home for croquet would be the flat area of the park fronting Gover Street, and for the tennis players Brooklands or some other public reserve where they could get security of tenure and room for expansion.

Could not all interested parties and the public combine to help the tennis and croquet players to go elsewhere?

VIEWS OF THE CLUBS.

Present at the meeting was Mr. R. Penny, president of the tennis club, who said his club was primarily concerned in preserving its assets. A conservative estimate of £100 for annual outlay meant that £4000 had been spent in the 40 years of tenure. The pavilion, one of the finest in New Zealand, could not be built under £1000 to-day.

He claimed that before building the pavilion 10 years ago the club had been assured there was no question of the permanency of its tenure.

Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour: That's news to me. Mr. Penny continued that the club was not run for financial gain, any surplus being put back into the club, which had 120 members.

HELP WANTED.

The club would move to another site if the area it occupied was needed for the park's preservation and if enough financial help were given. Removal to a larger area would give the club a chance to expand to a size needed in New Plymouth.

The present state of indecision was hindering the club's progress. Capital expenditure and maintenance, because of the war and uncertainty of tenure, had fallen behind. Before next season about £200 would have to be spent before the courts could be used.

Mr. N. B. Bellringer, for the croquet club, said the views of the club were almost identical to those of the tennis club. The club would like to be guaranteed a site. It was doubtful if the suggested Gover Street site would give as much area as at present, and the Brooklands site was more popular. He also suggested the gully between Brooklands and Carrington Road, the purchase of which was being negotiated by the council, when developed might be the most accessible site.

LOST MONEY.

Mr. Penny said the club had lost money during the war, but this year it had built up a fund of about £100 which would, however, be of little help in establishing new courts. The croquet club had about £200 in hand, added Mr. Bellringer.

After the deputation withdrew, Mr. T. Horton, park superintendent, said that if the clubs left now and the area was cleared it would be 12 months before it could be used for planting.

The only alternative to the clubs vacating immediately, which would be tantamount to closing them down, would be to give them five years' notice, said Mr. Saxton.

If the committee decided what trees it wanted to plant and established them now it would lose no time at all, pointed out Mr. F. Parker.

TEN-YEAR-OLD PROBLEM.

Mr. P. E. Stainton (secretary): Won't we be faced with recouping the clubs concerned with their capital outlay in five years' time? We've been facing this problem for ten years now.

Mr. Gilmour suggested purchase of the pavilion for conversion into a house by the committee or council might compensate the to a certain extent. He queried whether under the Fair Rents Act the clubs could be asked to leave without notice.

He felt the proposed sportsground at Vogeltown should be developed.

Mr. M. J. Neville: The clubs have given no indication that they are prepared to help.

Mr. Gilmour: I feel the Vogeltown people will help themselves to get the ground. The council has nothing to offer the way of tennis and croquet courts at present for the large number who want to play.

Mr. Parker pointed out that if the pavilion remained where it was it might interfere with the planting, but Mr. Saxton said that Mr. Hutt's, plan left room for a house and a garden.

Mr. Eliot King: We'll never get on with the planting if the clubs don't go.

TH, JUNE 2, 1948

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING FUTURE OF PARK RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORTS £5,000 A YEAR NEEDED

Three reports on the future development of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, were before the park committee in New Plymouth last night. They came from Mr. E. Hutt, director of parks and reserves in Wellington, Mr. V. C. Davies, New Plymouth, and Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, chairman of the committee.

These three men gave their views on the following projects:—

DEVELOPMENT OF CANNON HILL.

Mr. Hutt: Much of the existing growth should be removed and the area planted with flowering cherries and similar trees. The hill is a good vantage point, and this should be remembered when planting.

Mr. Davies: Remove useless poor undergrowth, trees blocking panoramic view and clean up stems of good trees to give a view underneath and still provide shade. Plant a few more very tall trees on the north side of the hill for height and shade. No further planting on the front side of the hill. Improved access could be given later.

Mr. Saxton: Trim some trees to open up a vista of the main lake, remove young, ragged trees and lay out the top of the hill with grass and seats as a vantage point from which to see the park.

FILLIS STREET GULLY.

Mr. Hutt: This area of about five acres, partly planted, but with no paths or proper access, should be cleared of noxious weeds and undesirable undergrowth and planted with trees

which will develop into specimens of their kind. They should be spaced to permit their full development, and in the meantime the public should not be encouraged to use the area. Paths and proper access should be formed when needed.

Mr. Davies: Attend at once to all good planted native trees by cutting back growth of trees, weeds and climbers. As soon as funds permit, cut all fern on hillside and keep mown and burnt annually. Several croquet courts could be made on the flat area. Several good native trees could be shifted to form a division between courts, or to the sides of the valley. When funds permit, tracks should be made along both sides of the banks from entrances and connect with tea kiosk.

Mr. Saxton: Clear rubbish from around trees and maintain area as picnic spot. Provide a suitable entrance from Fillis Street.

HILL ON EAST SIDE OF LAKE, BETWEEN LAKE AND RACECOURSE.

Mr. Hutt: The pine trees should be gradually moved and the area planted in keeping with the rest of the park.

Mr. Davies: Plant trees on the same plan as recommended on the western side of the park, with provision for felling and removing of the large trees in about 10 to 15 years.

Mr. Saxton: Replanting of the area will have to be provided for.

FERNERY AND BEGONIA HOUSES.

Mr. Hutt: The fernery should be restored to its former high standard. Since 1940 it has deteriorated alarmingly and many of the ferns, forming one of the country's finest collections, have disappeared. The suggestion, that as an economy measure, the begonia display should be discontinued should not be entertained. The park could not afford to be without its begonia display.

Mr. Davies: The whole collection of ferns should be renewed and collectors again asked to send in any rare ferns. Ferns cost far less to maintain than most other types of indoor plants. Begonias should be confined to the entrance and upper chamber. Some other permanent flowering plants, that would give a show before and after the begonias, should be introduced. Lapagerias are a great attraction.

Mr. Saxton: The fernery and begonia house should continue, but the fernery could be run more economically than at present. It could be closed in the winter, as the orchids are not as popular as begonias.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF PARK.

Mr. Hutt: Notwithstanding the reputation Pukekura Park has already attained, its beauty and fame would be considerably enhanced by the judicious introduction of colour. The indiscriminate use of colour is not suggested but I strongly recommend the planting of flowering and foliage trees in accord with a well-thought-out plan which would provide colour at all seasons.

In the planting of trees, as with all other activities, I would emphasise the necessity for a long-sighted view and no works should be undertaken without first considering their effect 50 years hence.

Mr. Davies: This park and others cannot be expected to progress until a superintendent of all parks and reserves in New Plymouth is appointed. A curator under the superintendent, in Pukekura Park, with a first-class working horticultural foreman, who is expert in all work, and could supervise, and then a small staff of first-class workmen, not necessarily horticulturists. These men should be paid according to their ability. This system would enable the work to be carried out in an economical manner.

Pukekura Park is world famous and must be kept up by the borough and townspeople, as this asset is of great value to every business in New Plymouth.

Mr. Saxton: To overcome lack of information about the park, I suggest: (1) That a coloured brochure be issued containing say a dozen views of the park and letterpress describing the features, to be available for sale at bookshops and the park tea kiosk. It would serve also as an attractive souvenir; (2) That general information relative to what to see, and how to get to it, be displayed in an artistic form as possible in the region of the tea kiosk; (3) That plain direction signs be erected in appropriate places, showing the way to the various features.

To give more ready access to the least known part of the park, and to create a scenic drive of particular charm, a suggestion has been made that sometime in the future a bitumen roadway be constructed from the south entrance on Upjohn Street down the Highlands and Maranui Valley, emerging from the bush at the top end of Brooklands lake, winding round the south bank of Brooklands lake and bearing round the hill past the new rhododendron grove to run out on to the street near the junction of Brooklands Road and the road leading up to Brooklands.

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF.

Mr. Hutt: The minimum annual income required by the committee to maintain and develop Pukekura Park, Brooklands and the Maranui and Highlands additions is £5000. This sum with sound administration would permit the carrying out of deferred maintenance, plus a certain amount of new development. The size of the staff required to maintain and develop the above-mentioned 150 acres would be not less than 10, including at least two trainees.

The committee will consider these reports at its next meeting.

CONVENIENCES AT PARK.

Women's dressing sheds and conveniences will be built at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, provided the financial assistance of the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club, the New Plymouth Girls' Marching Association and other interested organisations is forthcoming. Messrs. D. F. C. Saxton, chairman, M. J. Neville, K. Ward and the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, are to confer with these

bodies, it was decided by the committee last night.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

Also discussed at the meeting was the terms of a Borough Council loan of £2000 for the erection of a ladies dressing room at the sportsground. The term included that the work be carried out by contract in accordance with plans and specs prepared by the Borough Engineer (Mr. Mainland) and under his supervision.

TH, JUNE 10, 1948

MR. P. E. STAINTON, O.B.E.

Born at Auckland in 1895, Mr. P. E. Stainton, managing director of Stainton and Co., Ltd., New Plymouth, is one of the most prominent public figures in Taranaki. He has been chairman of the Taranaki Hospital Board for 15 years.

Among the many positions held by Mr. Stainton during the war were secretary of the New Plymouth Borough and Taranaki County patriotic committee, secretary of the welfare committee of the patriotic committee. He is representative on all rehabilitation committees in Taranaki in connection with transport applications. Other offices include: President of the New Plymouth Crippled Children Society, president of the Taranaki Tuberculosis Association, and vice-president of the Taranaki Cancer Association. A member of the executive of the New Zealand Hospital Boards' Association, Mr. Stainton is chairman of the Taranaki executive for the mobile X-ray unit and a member of the executive of the Western Hospital Districts Sanatorium Committee.

EMERGENCY PRECAUTIONS.

When it became necessary to prepare for the defense of New Zealand Mr. Stainton became Taranaki district controller of the E.P.S., Taranaki controller of E.P.S. transport, and chief controller of the New Plymouth Borough and Taranaki County E.P.S. organisation. He is the Government representative and chairman of the New Plymouth Airport Board, and borough representative on the north committee of the Egmont National Park Board, of which he is now chairman. He is transport representative on the petrol and tyre advisory committee.

For 13 years Mr. Stainton was a New Plymouth borough councillor, being deputy-Mayor for a period and chairman of the electric light and tramways, baths and bands committees. He was chairman of the Prisoners' Aid Society and a member of the New Plymouth Relief Association. He is secretary of the Pukekura Park Board and a member of the New Plymouth High Schools' Board of Governors. He is also a trustee of the New Plymouth Savings Bank and an ex-president.

In spite of his other activities he has taken a keen interest in sports of various kinds. He is patron of the Taranaki Boxing Association, patron of the Fitzroy Surf Club and was at one time president of the New Plymouth Cricket Association. He has also served as a member of the committees of the Taranaki Jockey Club and the Taranaki

Trotting Club and of the Taranaki District Racing Committee.

He was awarded the M.B.E. in 1946.

TH, JUNE 15, 1948

TREES FELLED

PINUS INSIGNIS TOPPLE IN PARK NINE MARKED TO GO

For some days the sullen thudding of axes and the high whine of saws followed by the crash of tall timber falling has been heard less than a mile from the centre of New Plymouth's busy Devon Street. In the pinus insignis plantation behind the south terrace at Pukekura Park, nine tall trees have been marked for felling. Some are already down and, their trunks sawn into shorter lengths, have been taken to a New Plymouth saw-mill.

The nine trees form a group behind the terrace ridge although none actually form the terrace sky-line from the park entrance. The tallest felled so far was more than 120 feet long, producing a trimmed log of approximately 80 feet.

This tree, it was estimated, would yield 3000 feet of seasoned timber which would require very little drying since the wood was matured in growth.

As each tree is dropped, it is trimmed and the main log sub-divided. The sections are then hauled down the slope by a crane, sub-divided again and loaded into trucks for transport to the mill.

The greatest problem of the felling yet faces the timber workers. On a steep slope running down to the path at the side of the terrace is a 100-foot giant whose branches spread widely in a tangled network. To avoid damage to the path on one side or the playing field on the other, the tree must be felled back up the slope and it is probable that jacks or wedges will be needed.

For the men engaged on the work, the felling is being done under conditions that must be near the timber-worker's ideal. The air is cool and heady with the sap from the raw stumps, there are neither flies nor mosquitoes and no mud. Most important, they are working within a few minutes' walk of civilisation and their homes.

The nearness of civilisation has, however, one draw-back—unexpected visitors are liable to appear at embarrassing moments. Earlier in the work, a large tree was on the point of toppling when a group of small boys appeared through the bush perilously close to the anticipated point of fall. Fortunately, a few vigorous shouts cleared them from any danger.

TH, JULY 8, 1948

CLEARING THE DEBRIS TREE FELLING AT PARK ALL TIMBER TAKEN

Working in a tangled mass of trunks, stumps and broken shrubs at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, park workmen are at present clearing the area in which a number of tall pines were recently felled. The mill-workers who felled the trees have left and with them have gone all the log lengths suitable for milling.

The workmen are now clearing the area before replanting. Close to half an acre of sloping ground behind the southern sky-line is littered with gnarled logs, broken branches and ploughed with furrows where the trees have been hauled from the crest of the hill to the path below.

Before the area can be re-planted and the new rest-room built all this must be cleared and the men face a long job cutting the litter into short lengths and carrying it clear.

Clearing the unwanted shrubs is a minor problem. This has already been done in the main by the tree felling and subsequent haulage.

**TH, JULY 14, 1948
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
EMPHATIC PROTEST
TREE FELLING AT PARK
COMMITTEE CONSIDERS POLICY**

An emphatic protest against the recent felling of trees in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, was voiced by Mr. W. F. Short at a meeting of the park committee last night.

The committee considered a general policy for replanting skyline trees, and in particular discussed the replanting of the gap left on the southern terrace of the sports ground by the felling of pinus insignis trees, the trees over which Mr. Short protested. The works committee and the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, were delegated to consult the Institute of Horticulture.

Pointing out that the trees felled had protected the sports ground from southerly winds, Mr. Short said that he felt that a mistake had been made. The gap left by the trees would be a funnel for wind and would create discomfort for spectators at the ground, particularly at night. It must also be realised that but for the pinus insignis trees the park as it stood would not have existed. Native trees would not grow well without shelter, and he considered that before trees were felled the results that would follow should be studied.

The chairman, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, replied that a meeting of as many members of the committee as were available had been called on the site, and it was unanimously agreed that the work should be done.

When Mr. Short disputed that the old pinus insignis were dangerous, Mr. Horton, to a question by Mr. Saxton, said that some large boughs had fallen.

When the committee turned their attention to how skyline trees could be replaced, Mr. Saxton said he believed that New Zealand trees should be primarily used, but that quick-growing exotics should be mixed in.

Mr. Horton detailed a suggested plan that included great British Columbia White Cedars. He agreed that there should be mainly native trees.

Mr. F. Parker, who supported Mr. Horton's scheme, warned against planting for quick growth. Quick growing trees did not have long life, and at the present time the committee was correcting a mistake made in the past.

AID OFFERED TO PARK.

A recommendation that the New Plymouth Borough Council invite the Institute of Horticulture to appoint a representative on the Pukekura Park committee was made by the committee last night. The chairman, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, reported to the committee that he had addressed the executive of the institute and that they had suggested that a representative be appointed.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

£50 was received from the estate of the late Dr. E. F. Fookes.

**TH, JULY 27, 1948
PARK MAINTENANCE
OVERTAKING ARREARS
SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE**

Ways and means of overtaking the arrears of work to be done in pukekura park and suggestions for future developments were discussed by the New Plymouth Rotary Club last night, following further short talk on the subject by Rotarian D. F. C. Saxton, who is chairman of the park committee.

The club members agreed that when the time came for works to be undertaken they would give the committee all practical assistance possible.

"Before any new major work can be commenced," said Mr. Saxton, a sum of £6500 would be required to overtake arrears of maintenance work that has accumulated during recent years."

A large part of that, he said, would be absorbed in the provision of two new main buildings to replace those existing to-day, but were quite inadequate. They were a pavilion for women engaging in sports activities, new women's conveniences and a new office for the superintendent and staff and a tools house. The present buildings were very primitive. Other work required was the painting of the band rotunda, the main bridge, the bridge near the boathouse, the boathouse needed renewing, the Brooklands shed and cottage and the Gables also required work done on them and the fernery and propagating sheds required renovations.

Mr. Saxton also enumerated a number of other necessary things, as cleaning paths and gullies, fencing repairs and a new mower and tractor for the sports ground.

The committee had considered various ways of getting help and some practical suggestions had come from a joint meeting of the committee with representatives of sports bodies using the sports ground. The Taranaki Council of the Institute of Horticulture had offered expert advice on tree planting and assistance in the work of planting. The Junior Chamber of Commerce was also considering in what way it could assist.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

It had been asked, said the speaker, what developments the committee had in prospect. He said that was to be considered at next meeting, but one thing was a complete path right through the park from the Liardet Street entrance to Upjohn Street.

So far as funds were concerned, he said, permission had been given for a street day in December, but that would not be enough. He wondered if a subscribing membership could be instituted by which persons would make annual contributions to the park. On the other hand there were people who said it was the business of the Borough Council to find funds for the care of the park.

In a general discussion Mr. G. A. Eddowes suggested that through the sports bodies some assistance, at least for a sports pavilion, might be obtained from the Government through the Physical Welfare Department. Mr. Saxton, speaking unofficially, replied that something in that direction was possible.

In reply to a suggestion of holding gala days, Mr. Saxton said the committee had in mind the organising of some Sunday band festivals, and also firework displays.

One offer for consideration was the making of the entrances to the park and the sports ground quite separate and distinct.

The organising of teams for free labour for some of the work was another suggestion which members considered quite practicable.

Archdeacon G. H. Gavin, speaking of combating vandalism, instanced the attitude of a member of the staff or the Christchurch botanical gardens who through the press, featured certain attractions in the gardens each week. He was a man from Kew, London, and interested the children of the schools and young persons in different parts of the gardens and they soon began to take a live interest in them and to regard them as their own gardens.

"FRIENDS OF THE PARK."

He also said that in England for care and upkeep of many of the cathedrals they had societies known as "The Friends of Cathedral." They gave a small annual contribution to the funds and were kept advised of what was done and how the money was spent. He suggested a "Society of Friends of Pukekura Park," on a similar basis.

Mr. V. C. Davies expressed the opinion that there should be more expert horticulturists on the committee and Mr. Saxton replied that the council had asked to give the Horticulture representations on the committee. He pointed out the committee was a sub-committee of the borough council and all appointments to it were made by the council.

Dr. G. Home suggested that the picture theatres might be asked to give a session's takings, or perhaps a rebate of the amusements tax might be allowed and be given to the park.

The thanks of the Club were expressed to the speaker by Rotarian A. M. Purser.

**TH, AUGUST 11, 1948
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
PLANTING AT PARK
SUPERINTENDENT AND INSTITUTE
DIFFER**

Before the hill at the southern end of the Pukekura Park sportsground, New

Plymouth, is planted, a conference will be held between the park committee and the Taranaki branch of the Royal Institute of Horticulture at the park on Sunday morning.

The meeting will inspect various types of trees growing in the park suggested for planting on the hill, where pine trees have recently been felled. The question is being treated as urgent, because immediate planting is necessary.

At last night's meeting of the committee, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, chairman, said that in the next 50 to 100 years the hill would form the main skyline and be the centre of the park. It was essential that the committee do the right thing.

Commenting on the report of a special committee of the institute, Mr. T. Horton, park superintendent, said he would not plant two of a pageful of trees suggested by the institute. Some of them, like the spruce, Norfolk pine and other coniferous types were unsuited to the position. Their foliage would be thin and yellowish, and on the weather side they would lose nearly all their growth. There were specimens of these trees in the park, which were not in the fine, healthy state expected in specimens to be planted on a hill-top.

Mr. W. F. Short stressed the need for a line of large, heavy foliaged trees to provide shelter, especially for evening entertainments.

The conference was suggested by Mr. P. E. Stainton, secretary, as an alternative to possibly making a mistake that would take 20 years to rectify.

Mr. M. J. Neville. I feel we should leave it to the experts.

Mr. Stainton: But the experts differ.

CHILDREN'S INTEREST IN PARK SOUGHT

The suggestion that the higher standards of New Plymouth primary schools should be taken on conducted tours of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, is to be made to the New Plymouth Headmasters' Association by the park committee.

At its meeting last night, the committee felt that such tours would assist the children in their botany studies and also foster an appreciation of the park's value among them.

If the association agrees to the proposal, it is to arrange dates and times for the tours with the park superintendent. Mr. T. Horton.

The suggestion was made by the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, that later an essay competition on the park might be held and the best effort from a boy and a girl published.

The committee also favourably received Mr. Stainton's idea that parties should be taken over the park on Sundays by Mr. Horton or a committee member, who could point out various interesting and historical features. Many New Plymouth people, he said, knew little of the park and its story.

TH, AUGUST 11, 1948

SUPPORT FOR PARK COMMITTEE

All possible support for the Pukekura Park Committee's drive to raise funds for

the development of the park was pledged at a meeting of the board of the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce this week. The board had before it a report compiled by the Pukekura Park Project Committee which was considered at the meeting.

TH, OCTOBER 1, 1948

ON THE WAY

NEW DRESSING SHED

By the end of February next year, a long-needed facility at Pukekura Park, a women's dressing shed, will be erected and ready for use.

New Plymouth's women athletes have in the past been forced to go without the most primitive facilities, but the holding of the New Zealand Women's Amateur Athletic championships at the park in early March has resulted in the building becoming a number one priority. Excavations for the building have recently been started.

The new pavilion will be built with concrete block walls and will have a tiled roof. With a length of 40 feet and 24 feet across, it will provide ample dressing room for the competitors. Wash basins and conveniences are also to be installed, but no provision has been made for showers. The building will be on the left-hand side of the left track to the tea kiosk, and will occupy some space formerly taken up by a tool shed.

Access to the pavilion will be from the path to the main lake, but at present, with a truck and excavator churning axle-deep in the sticky yellow mud, it is impassable. Plenty of work still remains to be done with trees to be stumped and foundations laid, but it thought that the assurance given by the New Plymouth Borough Council that the pavilion will be ready for use at the championships will not be broken.

Behind the excavation and towards the top of the southern terrace, a large amount of bush has been cut down and replanted with tall growing trees given to the park by the New Plymouth Horticultural Society.

TH, OCTOBER 2, 1948

FOR ROYAL VISIT

SPECIAL FLORAL DISPLAY PUKEKURA PARK PLANS

The flower beds at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, will glow with the regal colours of blue, gold and scarlet for the Royal visit next March.

The park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, has planned this vivid colour scheme for the beds near the fernery, and planting will begin in November. The flowers have not yet been selected.

Although present arrangements do not provide for any tour of the park by the King, Queen and Princess Margaret, Mr. Horton is going ahead with his scheme in case the plans are amended. However, this special feature will be a big drawcard to the thousands of Taranakians who will be in New Plymouth on March 3.

Because the Royal visitors will not see the many and lovely gardens for which New Plymouth is noted, the suggestion

has been made that the people should bring "something of their gardens" to the civic reception by wearing the loveliest and brightest flower in bloom as a buttonhole. This would be a refreshing innovation, adding that fillip of gaiety and colour needed for such a memorable event.

TH, OCTOBER 13, 1948

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING PARK DRESSING SHED.

The new women's dressing shed at Pukekura Park should ready before Christmas, said Mr. R. F. Mainland, the borough engineer, when he attended a meeting of the park committee in New Plymouth last night. He explained that the building would be a single-storey, built of concrete blocks already made at the council's workshops with a tiled roof. Tenders would close on October 22, and he anticipated that it would be completed within the two-month period allowed.

PARK SPEEDWAY

THREAT OF INJUNCTION

A request for the use of the Pukekura Park playing area as a motor speedway was considered too serious a question for decision by the committee alone, said Mr. M. J. Neville, reporting on the progress of the application at a meeting of the committee in New Plymouth last night. The request had been forwarded to the New Plymouth Borough Council but no decision had been reached.

"As far as I can see there seems to be no one in favour of it," he stated.

The application could well be one of the subjects discussed at the forthcoming joint meeting of the committee and the council, said the chairman, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton. He understood that, if it were granted, residents nearby were prepared to take out an injunction on the grounds that the noise constituted a disturbance of the peace. In addition, the silt track around the perimeter of the playing area would provide difficulty for both Cycling and cricket.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

George Huthnance was appointed to the board as the representative of the Institute of Horticulture.

Mr. Mainland reported that the excavation work for the ladies changing room had been completed by Messrs. C. & N. Roebuck Ltd.

TH, NOVEMBER 6, 1948

PARK SUPERINTENDENT TO RETIRE

CAREER OF MR. T. HORTON

AFTER almost a quarter of a century as superintendent of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, Mr. T. Horton has resigned. He will complete his term next March.

His retirement ends an active life that has taken him around the world and into ambitious enterprises, and brings to a close 24 years that have seen the park developed into one of the showplaces of New Zealand. Mr. Horton is now superintendent of all parks, and, at the request of the New Plymouth Borough Council, has submitted an extensive

report on the future of the town's reserves.

Pukekura Park was neglected and backward when Mr. Horton took over in March, 1924. To-day its 106 acres, reaching back into Brooklands, contains trees, shrubs and flowers from every corner of the earth, and the park is an attraction to tourists and experts alike.

When, a few years after he took over the park, Mr. Horton had a clear idea of what was wanted, he obtained permission from the then park board to carry out permanent improvements, and he set to work and felled a double row of huge pines that flanked the John Street walk to the racecourse.

In defiance of sceptical experts, he planted native trees, mainly kauris, rimus and totaras. Now 20 to 30 feet high, these trees have transformed the walk. Their growth has surprised many, and has led Mr. Horton to believe that kauris should be extensively planted in Taranaki.

SWAMP TRANSFORMED.

In front of where the fernery now stands was a swamp, overgrown with rapu (raupo), blackberry, gorse and niggerheads. Mr. Horton drained and cleared this, and when the fernery was built, used spoil from that work to fill the

varieties of native trees with the idea of making it into a small native botanical reserve. When Brooklands was taken over, he planned its lay-out, cleared a great deal of noxious growth and in its place planted 4900 of New Zealand's best timber trees. Among them were 600 kauris.

One of the features of Mr. Horton's work in the park was the development of the Sanders Bequest rhododendron dell, for which he selected the trees. Many of them he selected personally from the nurseries of the best growers in Europe. Visitors to the park now can see this dell blooming at its best.

As part of his post of superintendent of all parks, Mr. Horton planned Paritutu Centennial Park, the development of which is now slowly taking shape.

EXTENSIVE BUSINESS.

Pukekura Park's fame has earned Mr. Horton a prominent place in the horticultural world, but long before he took over its affairs, his knowledge and ability were known in various parts of the world through his wide business associations.

He was born in Warwickshire, England, in 1867 and emigrated to New Zealand with his parents in 1874. He was educated at Rangiora, Canterbury, and at

mile bush at Pahiatua. As he cleared the ground, he dug and planted it.

In less than two years business was flourishing and he extended his two acres to 10; in less than 10 years he had bought 178 acres of the famous Frimley Estate and was employing a permanent staff of 97 men and seven travellers. He had established agencies in all parts of New Zealand.

Specialising in fruit trees, and apple trees in particular, Mr. Horton extended his trade, mounting into millions of trees, as far afield as Australia, the Argentine and South Africa. He catalogued 700 varieties of apple alone, and each year visited Australia in search of new varieties. He also toured the world three times, bringing home new or rare plants that he thought might be useful to New Zealand. Among others, he introduced the still popular Delicious apple, which came from Chicago in 1897, and developed the Frimley Beauty with a cross between Jonathan and Rome Beauty.

In 1906 Mr. Horton went to England and gained, by examination, the Diploma of the Royal Horticultural Society. A comprehensive exhibition of fruit that he took with him earned him the Hogg Memorial Medal.

In the early days of the apple export industry in 1908, Mr. Horton was appointed to the Pomological Board, which was set up by the Government to advise growers on the best types of trees to plant in the various districts. Restricting the number of varieties to not more than 12, and advising growers to plant as few varieties as possible, the influence of this board is still felt to-day in the restricted varieties that are extensively grown.

A highlight of Mr. Horton's business career was his visit to South America in 1910. He was invited by the Government of Paraguay to visit that country and give advice on fruit culture, and he took the opportunity to travel extensively in South American countries. Realising the opportunities, he opened an agency at Buenos Aires, and through this distributed hundreds of thousands of fruit trees.

SHIPS DIVERTED.

He revisited The Argentine in 1914 and staged an exhibition, at Buenos Aires. This brought in many orders, but before they could be fulfilled, war broke out, and New Zealand that previously had been regularly calling at Buenos Aires and Montevideo were diverted.

To keep faith, Mr. Horton chartered a ship, which left Napier in 1915 flying Mr. Horton's own house flag, with his advertising slogan, "Horton's Trees Grow." Heavy costs crippled this trade, and Mr. Horton eventually abandoned it.

The war, too, severely affected his business. The final blow was when the Government abandoned a scheme to assist returned servicemen to establish fruit farms, and Mr. Horton was forced to burn 2,300,000 trees. As a result of this, he decided to give up the nursery business, and after travelling for about two years, he accepted, in March, 1924, the position of superintendent of

LONG SERVICE TO PUKEKURA PARK



MR. T. HORTON, superintendent of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, photographed at the upper rhododendron dell. After nearly 25 years' service Mr. Horton's resignation has been tendered, his term as superintendent ending next March. (See story on this page.)

gully to a depth of 12 to 16 feet. On that clay base he made the present beautiful ornamental flower beds.

The construction of the fernery, conservatory and begonia houses, a highlight of any tour of New Zealand, was done under Mr. Horton's supervision. More than 100,000 persons have been through these houses.

Cleaning up the Fillis Street gully, Mr. Horton planted there at least two of most

the age of 11 years was apprenticed with W. E. Ivory's Nursery, Christchurch.

When he was 21, Mr. Horton became manager of a North Island nursery, and after seven years there decided to strike out on his own. Earning enough as a jobbing gardener to keep his wife and four children, he worked early and late—sometimes to one or two a.m. by lamp light—clearing and stumping in the 40-

Pukekura Park. His original intention was to stay only for a year or so, his term has lasted 24 years.

Mr. Horton is a foundation member of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture whose diploma he holds and is the only living foundation member of the New Zealand Horticulture Trades Association. He has won many gold medals and awards. Two of note are the gold medal he won at the Christchurch Exhibition in 1906, when he beat a Canadian display, and the gold medal and £50 prize, offered by the Australian Federal Government, he won by outclassing a Victorian exhibit.

Mr. Horton represented New Zealand at a fruit-growers' conference in Western Australia.

**TH, NOVEMBER 12, 1948
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
TRIBUTES TO PARK
SUPERINTENDENT
RESIGNATION ACCEPTED**

Pukekura Park was a monument to the outstanding work of Mr. T. Horton during nearly 25 years as superintendent, said Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, chairman, in one of many tributes following the acceptance of Mr. Horton's resignation by the committee in New Plymouth last night.

Like any man who held an important public position, Mr. Horton had had his critics as well as those who praised him, he added. In the last 25 years the park had undergone an amazing change for the better, particularly in the planting, nurture and growth of native trees, which would be a monument for years to Mr. Horton's work.

"It is a very real personal blow to sever my connection with you, not only as an outstanding superintendent but as a firm personal friend," added Mr. Saxton.

Later, he said, a certain part of the park, yet to be selected, would be named after Mr. Horton.

The secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton, said Mr. Horton was a personality it would be very hard to replace; he had not only loved his work but had been an outstanding asset to the park and the town with his delightful personality and unflinching courtesy. The park and Mr. Horton had almost become one. If the park had been his own property Mr. Horton could not have done a better job or been keener. It was regretted that lack of finances had prevented the parks' development as he and the committee had desired.

EFFICIENT SERVICE.

He praised the quiet, unassuming, and efficient service to the community given by Mrs. Horton.

Mrs. P. C. Davie, Mr. K. A. Ward, Mr. K. Lippiatt, Mr. F. Parker and Mr. G. Huthnance also spoke.

Severing his connection with the park was almost like losing a member of his own family, said Mr. Horton. He had loved it always.

The appreciation of visitors from all parts of the world had encouraged him to carry on at the park, he added. He regretted that lack of finance had

prevented the carrying out of many schemes to make the park more beautiful.

He and Mrs. Horton would continue to live in New Plymouth and maintain their interest in the park.

REPAINTING BRIDGE.

Before the main bridge over the lake at Pukekura Park is repainted, expert information on the most suitable paint to use is to be obtained by the chairman, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, and Mrs. P. C. Davie. Mr. T. Horton, was authorised to have the bridge cleaned, overhauled and painted. The colour will probably be red.

PLANTING AT PARK.

During the next week or two the flower beds would be planted with suitable flowers for the summer show and the Royal visit, reported the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton.

EXTRA NOTES FROM MINUTES

A letter from the Borough Engineer advised the committee that the tender of Messrs. Curd Bros for £1317 10s. had been accepted for Ladies Dressing Pavilion. An additional £400 (approximately) had to be added.

**TH, NOVEMBER 15, 1948
RED, WHITE AND BLUE.**

Main work at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, at present is the planting of the beds with a variety of flowers which when in bloom will form a patriotic colour scheme of red, white and blue for the Royal visit next March.

**TH, NOVEMBER 16, 1948
CAROLS FESTIVAL
BY CANDLELIGHT IN PARK**

Further progress was made yesterday in the proposal to have a "carols by candlelight festival" in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth on the Sunday evening immediately preceding Christmas.

A decision was made by a joint committee of representatives of the Pukekura Park Committee and the New Plymouth Y.W.C.A. to proceed with the project.

The provisional joint committee was enlarged by the addition of representatives of the New Plymouth Rotary Club, and it was resolved to arrange for a choir to lead the singing, soloists for special numbers, the Salvation Army Band to play the carols, and details such as a supply of candles for the public and flares for lighting the sportsground. As part of the evening's programme the Nativity scene will be presented by the Y.W.C.A.

A two colour programme suitable for posting as Christmas card or message is to be printed and sold prior to the ceremony.

**TH, DECEMBER 2, 1948
FUNDRAISING**

This week-end sees the culmination of the post-war effort to place Pukekura Park on its feet financially and to improve and maintain a civic possession whose fame extends beyond Taranaki. A collection to-morrow followed by a ball in the evening and a sports festival on

Saturday will give ample opportunity for a sharing in the task of bringing Pukekura Park back to the standard that made its reputation.

The park is a splendid example of voluntary service, of vision and energy through the years. New Plymouth has never gone with cap in hand to the Government for its park; it has believed that while maintenance should be the responsibility of ratepayers, projects for improvement should be by voluntary effort. The magnificent gift of Brooklands, while adding to the annual financial commitment, was accepted with enthusiasm as being in this tradition of voluntary help and donation.

Now the leeway of the war years, of deferred maintenance, has to be caught up, and the organisers of the appeal have every expectation that the response will be generous. This is not a recurring appeal, it is an emergency effort to deal with exceptional circumstances, and no more worthy objective has been placed before public for its consideration.

**TH, DECEMBER 4, 1948
GENEROUS GIFT
£20 TO PARK FUNDS
SPONTANEOUS DONATION**

A gift of to the Pukekura Park funds was made to the chairman of the Park Committee, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, to-day, by a New Plymouth citizen who wishes to remain anonymous.

The gift was made as an expression of appreciation of the work of Mr. T. Horton, park superintendent, and the donor expressed a hope that 20 other persons would be found to follow his example.

"It's a good cause," he said, in handing over the cash, "and New Plymouth people ought to support its fine park."

The gift was made through two citizens who made a special visit to the park this morning, in connection with plans for the carols by candlelight festival. Not being members of the park committee they were at first a little diffident about accepting the money, but as the donor said he was going away almost at once the money was taken, with grateful thanks, and immediately paid over to the chairman of the committee at his home.

**TH, DECEMBER 8, 1948
CHEQUE FOR PARK
CONTRIBUTION OF JUNIOR
CHAMBER**

A cheque for £475 as the contribution of the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce to the Pukekura Park campaign was handed to the park committee chairman, Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, at a dinner held in New Plymouth last night. The presentation was made by Mr. A. Norton Taylor, representing the sub-committee in charge of the park fund project.

It would now be possible to begin next year the extensive improvements and maintenance needed at the park, said Mr. Saxton. He cited the cost of the women's pavilion as £1700 and said the building had already been started, "The committee has had extraordinary support

from all kinds of institutions," he added. One New Plymouth businessman was so impressed at the public support of the fund that he revised his original intention of donating £20 and instead gave £50. In expressing appreciation of the chamber's effort Mr. Saxton pointed out the great potential strength of the organisation and its capacity of great public benefit.

In speaking as the first official guest of honour at a Junior Chamber dinner, the Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, quoted a recent letter from Sir Harry Batterbee, who wrote, "The grandest spot in the southern hemisphere is New Plymouth's Pukekura Park."

"Because we are an organisation of five o'clock till bedtime," the activities of the Junior Chamber make great inroads into leisure hours," said the chairman of the Junior Chamber, Mr. S. Anderson. He outlined the aims of the chamber and expressed recognition of the unique occasion on which co-operation of women's organisations made possible the Pukekura Park fund project.

TH, DECEMBER 20, 1948
UNIQUE FESTIVAL
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
PUKEKURA PARK SPECTACLE

Notwithstanding inclement weather the novel festival for New Plymouth of "carols by candlelight" was successfully introduced in New Plymouth last night under the auspices of the Pukekura Park Committee in conjunction with the New Plymouth Y.W.C.A.

The event was spectacular and inspiring as from almost complete black darkness first the big flares, which surrounded part of the playing area and encircled the singing leaders, were lighted by Boy

Scouts as running torch bearers. This was the signal for the lighting of candles by the members of the big audience which filled the western and southern terraces and extended round the railings of the sports arena.

The "little lights" pin-pricked the darkness, and as they came into being there were lines of flickering flame almost unbroken for the full length of each terrace.

This impressive and a little exciting part of the festival completed, the singing of the programme of well-known carols proceeded. It was led by the Salvation Army band and a community choir, under the direction of Mr. R. L. Cooper. Although the dispersal of the assemblage over such a wide area, was a little against a solid and concentrated tonal effect, the amplifying of the choir singing carried the leaders' voices to the extremities of the terraces and the audience joined in with obvious enjoyment.

There were some effective contrasts in the singing, as for instance, the soft delicacy of Gruber's "Silent Night," with the more robust singing of "O Come all ye faithful" and "Christians Awake."

Also in the beautiful old traditional "Coventry Carol," particularly in the verse depicting the rage of Herod in his edict commanding the death of all male infants.

A particularly pleasing effect was the introduction of "Hark! the Herald Angels" by a cornetist of the band first playing the melody from a distant part of the park away up among the trees.

Mr. Len Kerr contributed the carol solo, to band accompaniment, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and during the singing of some of the carols members of the

Y.W.C.A. presented a Nativity scene in tableau form, staged at the horseshoe bend, heightened by the effect of special spot-lighting.

UNDETERRED BY RAIN.

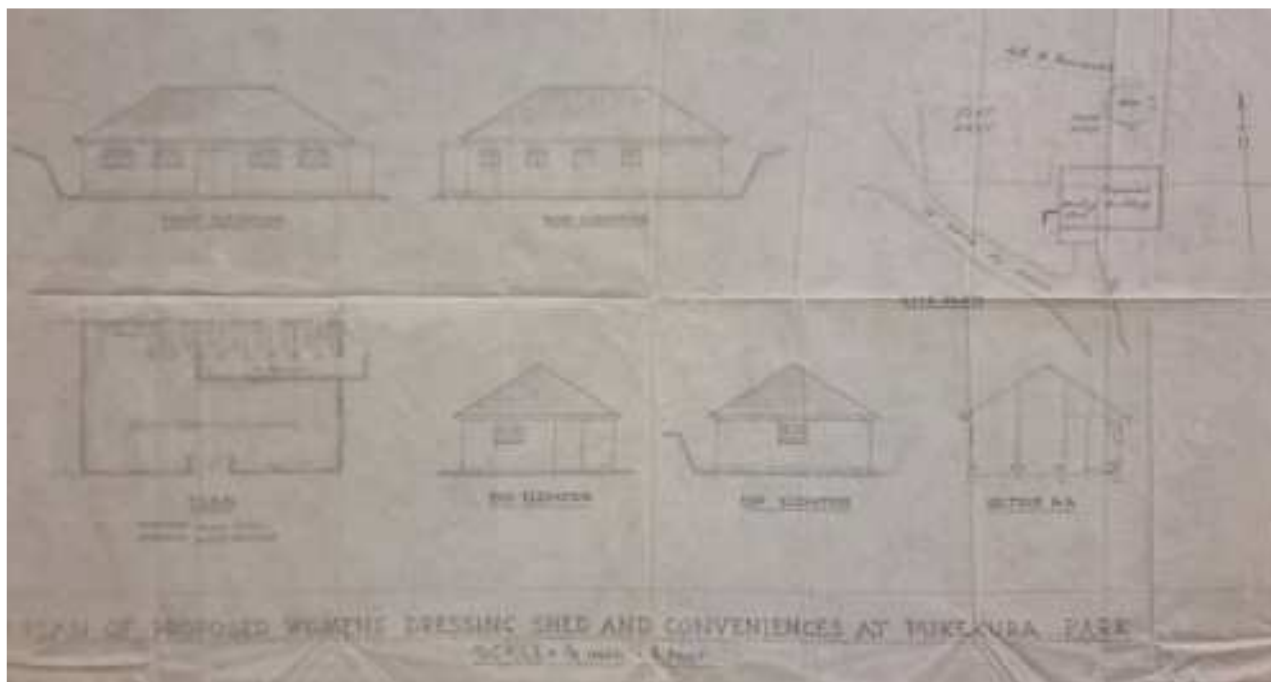
It was a tribute to the effectiveness of the organisation that such a large number of citizens attended, and obviously enjoyed the occasion, in spite of the light rain which fell almost continuously with varying density throughout the festival, and came in a heavy downpour just as it concluded. The promise of fine weather earlier in the day had raised the expectations of the promoters, but these were dashed a little when rain settled in during the early evening though not heavily.

Many persons went to the Opera House in expectation of a change of venue from the park. Not to be denied, however, they retraced their steps and went to the park where, under umbrellas and any other shelter that could be found, they took their part in the initial ceremony of its kind in New Plymouth, which promises to be popular annual event.

Had the weather been favourable it is safe to say there would have been thousands of people in the park, filling a good part of the arena and maybe the terraces as well.

A suggestion was made that perhaps Christmas Eve would be a suitable occasion for the holding of this festival as a climax to the day's celebrations.

The proceeds of the festival are to go to the Park Committee and the Y.W.C.A., and last night's takings from the sale of programmes and contributions amounted to about £55



Plan of proposed Womens Dressing Shed (Puke Arika ARC2001-516)

1949

Thomas Horton at the age of 81 left the park on March 31, after spending 25 years as superintendent. He left an indelible impression changing the look of the park forever. While in charge he introduced thousands of native trees while gradually dispensing with the *pinus radiata* which had outgrown their usefulness. He oversaw the building of the fernery and the transformation of a nearby ugly swamp into a dell admired by all. He planted the Sanders rhododendron dell with plants personally selected, many of which were imported from England. The kauri Grove plantation between The Gables and Brooklands Road was his idea along with the Fillis Street Native Reserve, but what he will always be remembered for is his first planting, that of kauri, rimu and totara along Horton Walk leading from the Rogan Street entrance down to the Tea House.

The new ladies dressing shed was completed early in the year in time for the New Zealand Women's and junior men's track and field championships featuring names like Yvette Williams, Shot Put Champion and Miss Shirley Strickland, Australian Olympic games representative.

The Gables celebrated being 100 years old. The old colonial hospital commissioned by Sir George Grey, designed by Frederick Thatcher, and built by George Robinson of New Plymouth, was moved to its current site at new Plymouth at the end of 1904.

New Plymouth received city status on January 27, 1949.

The final act in this book is appropriately the leaving do of Thomas Horton held on March 31, 1949 held at the Tea House in the park where he and Mrs. Horton put on morning tea for the staff.



Pukekura Park, *Taranaki Herald*, March 12, 1949



The original Horton Walk sign.
(private collection, Warwick Horton)

TH, JANUARY 13, 1949

BIG INCREASE

FERNERY VISITORS

4,611 SINCE CHRISTMAS

Since Christmas Day 4,611 people have visited the Pukekura Park fernery, New Plymouth, nearly double the number who saw this always-attractive spot in the 1947-48 holiday period.

Up to last night 4,611 tickets had been issued for admission to the fernery, said the park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to-day. Last year the total was only 2,531. While the 1948-49 figure was not a record, it was the best for several years, and the average of 242 visitors a day had seen a display equal to any yet given.

As well there were several hundred people who took advantage of their tickets which they received in return for a donation during last month's street day for the park. These gave them free admission to the fernery till December 31.

While the fernery figures show an encouraging increase, the boat returns are down, but only because one boat was unusable. A total of 2,828 visitors went for a row on the lake, compared with 3,264 in the previous holiday period.

The work the park staff have put into the fernery display has been well rewarded by the compliments many people have recorded in the visitors' book.

TH, JANUARY 27, 1949

ALMOST READY

PARK DRESSING SHED

ATTRACTIVE BUSH SETTING

Nestling easily and attractively among the palms and bushes beside the southern terrace, the new women's dressing shed at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, is nearing completion. The shed, with its attendant convenience block, will form a valuable addition to the facilities at the town's most famous tourist attraction.

The unit has been designed by the borough engineer, Mr. R. F. Mainland, to harmonise with the bush setting in which it is being built. Approximately 24



feet wide and 41 feet long, it is constructed in concrete blocks and capped by a brightly tiled roof. When completed it will be plastered externally in a shade of dark cream and the interior fittings will be painted in a similar shade. The building will serve a dual purpose. The dressing shed will be large enough to accommodate a large number of women competitors during sports fixtures on the park. In addition an interior partition will provide a separate convenience block with its own outside

access which will be open continuously for the use of park visitors.

The completion of the unit, which has been eagerly sought by sports bodies using the park, may be the first step in further construction in the same area. Sufficient space has been levelled next to the shed for an additional building and it is possible that the future may see the construction of staff quarters and offices on an adjoining site.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1949

HISTORIC "GABLES"

PAST CENTURY MARK

ONCE PICTURESQUE HOSPITAL

Oldest house in New Plymouth, and one of the oldest buildings in New Zealand in continuous occupation, The Gables, Brooklands, has passed its hundredth year. Erected late in 1848 as a hospital primarily for the care of the Maoris, the building is of heart rimu, with Baltic pine flooring, and is still in good repair though sadly lacking a coat of paint.

The Gables has had a chequered history to match its picturesque appearance. First built as a hospital, it was later used on the original site of Mangorei Road as



Taranaki Herald, Feb 17, 1949

an old people's home, and was in 1904 put up for auction for removal. Though it was feared that the then 55-year-old building would fall prey to the breaker-up, it was bought by the late Mr. Newton King and shifted to its present site near Brooklands Road, overlooking the reserve and Pukekura Park.

Known in its early years as the colonial military hospital, the building is mentioned in a dispatch of 1849 from Governor Grey, later Sir George Grey, to the Colonial Secretary, Earl Gray.

During the previous year four Europeans and 55 Maoris had been treated at the hospital, said the dispatch, and 570 outpatients had also visited the building. In addition 320 Maoris had been vaccinated, and altogether the hospital was considered by the Governor to be a valuable and efficiently-organised establishment. It had three wards, each accommodating 12 patients and distinguished by having two windows and a fireplace.

Architect of the building was Mr. Thatcher who later designed St. Mary's Cathedral, Auckland, and later still was the first incumbent of St. Matthew's, Auckland, after taking orders.

CHANGE OF HANDS.

In more recent years the property passed from the hands of Mr. Newton King's family into those of the New Plymouth Borough Council, by whom it is still let

to-day as a dwelling. The suggestion has been made that The Gables should be maintained as an historic monument, a role which it could fill admirably.

Despite little maintenance work on the building, at least in the 45 years since it was moved to its present site, The Gables is still structurally in good shape, according to its present occupants, who have been the council's tenants for the past 16 years. The main beams of heart rimu are almost impossible to penetrate with nails, and the weatherboarding is almost as tough a proposition. The bottoms of some posts are rotted out, but in the main the building, which was re-erected on concrete foundations, is sound to-day.

The steeply-pitched roof is still covered with wooden shingles, and the chimneys have been passed by experts in recent years as capable of withstanding earthquake or wind. The house, which is under the control of the Pukekura Park committee, needs a coat of paint, but both it and the grounds are otherwise in good condition.

TH, MARCH 2, 1949

OLYMPIC RUNNER

NEW PLYMOUTH APPEARANCE

DOMINION ATHLETICS

Miss Shirley Strickland, Australia, who ran third to Fanny Blankers-Koen at the Olympic Games, will be the star performer at the New Zealand Junior and women's athletic championship at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, on Friday and Saturday.

She will compete in the 80 metre hurdles and the 100 and 220 yards flat races which will probably be held on Saturday.

Miss Strickland and her chaperone will arrive at New Plymouth from Christchurch by air on Thursday.

TOP ATHLETES.

As well as this attraction, the top athletes in the Dominion from Auckland to Otago will be competing in the two-day programme which will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday and again on Saturday.

Teams from seven centres, Otago, Canterbury, Wellington, Hawke's Bay, Poverty Bay, Waikato, Auckland and West Coast (N.I.) comprising a total of 157 athletes will compete in the championships; one of the greatest athletic meetings in Taranaki history.

A grand parade is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, when the competitors will be welcomed by the Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour. Mr. N. A. McKenzie, of the New Zealand Amateur Athletics Association will also give short address.

The West Coast (N.I.) team to compete in the championships are as follows, Taranaki athletes being indicated by (T):

Women: 75 yards, Miss B. Couchman; 100 yards, Miss S. Reekie (T), Miss N. Kelly (T); 220 yards, Miss Reekie (E), Miss Kelly (T); high jump, Miss N. Kruse (T), Miss D. Williams; broad jump, Miss M. Munro, Miss Williams, Miss P. Montague; javelin, Miss Sleep (T), Miss M. Quin (T), Miss V. Robertson; discus, Miss Sleep (T), Miss

Robertson; shot put, Miss Sleep (T), Miss Couchman.

Men: 100 yards, L. B. Shrimpton (T), C. H. Crimp; 220 yards, Shrimpton (T); 880 yards, K. Shirley; one mile, T. Knuckey (T), D. Robinson; two miles, D. Deere (T), C. O'Connell; one mile walk, I. Hewitt (T); broad jump, C. Croad (T), C. H. Crimp; hop, step and jump, W. Thomson (T); pole vault, G. Watt (T); javelin, R. Henderson (T), M. Alsweller (T); discus, T. Hoper (TH); shot put, Henderson (T), Hooper (T).

TH, MARCH 5, 1949

ATHLETES COMPETE FOR N.Z. TITLES

SHIRLEY STRICKLAND DEFEATED

A KALEIDESCOPE of colours, bounding energy under full control as competitors limbered up and, finally, disciplined marching to the point where the teams drew up to take the oath gave the final day of the New Zealand Women's and Junior Athletic championships a fine start to what promised to be a fine afternoon's sport in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, to-day.



Yvette Williams, Shot Put Champion competing at New Plymouth. AWN March 16, 1949

The weather was excellent, though overcast, and the track in good order. With the example before them of several records shattered yesterday afternoon, competitors were "on their toes" to do better to-day, and the hundreds of spectators, estimated at 2500 or more at 2 O'clock, eagerly awaited their performances.

Led by the Caledonian Pipe Band, the parade moved off from the pavilion end and circled the track amid the applause of the spectators. Precisely-executed turns brought them to the marshalling point, where Auckland, Canterbury, Hawke's Bay-Poverty Bay, Otago, Waikato, Wellington and West Coast drew up facing the dais from which the captain of the West Coast team, S. J. Colbert, took the oath, modelled on the lines of the Olympic oath.

This was acknowledged by the Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, who welcomed the athletes to the city. He was introduced by Dr. G. H. Thomson, who also brought to the dais the president of the New Zealand

Amateur Athletic Association, Mr. N. A. McKenzie.

A surprise feature of the afternoon was the presentation to Miss Shirley Strickland, Australian Olympic games representative, of a silver cup won at Hamilton. The presentation was made by Mr. Fraser Miller, of Te Aroha, manager of the Waikato team, and Miss Strickland was also given a warm welcome by the audience.

Big surprise of this afternoon's competitions was the defeat of Shirley Strickland by the Otago runner S. Hardman in the fairly slow time of 11 3-10 sec. for the 100 yards. Miss Hardman took control of the race from the early stages and had the result well in hand, Miss Strickland's lack of serious training recently showing up in her inability to head the opposition. Ruth Dowman, of Wellington, was second.

TH, MARCH 10, 1949

SNOWDROP BULBS FOR PUKEKURA PARK

Mr. D. F. C. Saxton, chairman of the Pukekura Park committee, has accepted an offer of 2000 English snowdrop bulbs for the Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. This offer was made by Mr. R. A. Mould, Wainui, Banks Peninsula, through the Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour.

TH, MARCH 18, 1949

PIPE CONTEST QUICKSTEP BEGINS CHAMPIONSHIP

The whistle shrilled and the members of the Hutt Valley Pipe Band stiffened to a position if possible even more rigid than their original attention. Then, to the command of Drum Major A. McCaskill, they stepped off on the first leg of the quickstep. The 1949 Dominion Pipe Band Contest had begun.

In sultry, overcast weather that promised some improvement later in the afternoon, the B grade quickstep began on Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, shortly after midday. Fourteen bands competed over a course that called for rigid discipline and careful timing. There was a dress inspection before the march began and critical judgment of both music and drumming while the bands were negotiating the difficult course.

In spite of the oppressive weather, there was a large crowd on the terraces to watch the first band open the contest. They looked down into an arena that was alive with the rich colours of tartans, scarlets and pipe-clayed white. Boy Scouts, acting as messengers, scurried between the military judges, led by Brigadier L. W. Andrew, V.C., D.S.O., the dress and drumming judges, the small lonely tent in which Mr. R. W. Haddow, judge of music, sat alone, and the recording tent.

The B grade quickstep. was scheduled to be completed to-day. The contest will continue to-night with the B grade selections and tomorrow with the street march, the A grade quickstep and drum major's staff swinging and the A grade selection.

Following a church parade at Pukekura Park on Sunday morning, the drum majors' displays will be held in the afternoon, followed by the massed bands. The presentation of prizes will be made on Sunday night.

TH, MARCH 10, 1949

PIPE BANDS DEPART NEW PLYMOUTH RETURNS TO NORMAL

AFTERMATH OF CONTESTS

The last skirl of the pipes did not die away until the early hours of this morning, following the conclusion



yesterday of the 1949 New Zealand Highland Pipe Band championship contests at New Plymouth. Not content with the exercise given them in the previous three days, some indomitable Scots were both seen and heard, especially heard, piping themselves home to bed at the racecourse after midnight.

New Plymouth has, in fact, besides new respect for the Pipes a very considerable respect for the pipers themselves. the enthusiasm with which they tackle their work and the stamina which keeps them going. The love of the Scot for his pipes is something celebrated in story and in legend, and New Zealand. Scots proved during the week-end that the pipes bore the same relation to them as his steed to the Arab.

Yesterday's spectacle at Pukekura Park had its less pleasant side; with 16,000 people sitting in the brilliant, windless sunshine of the arena the number of those fainting or sustaining heat strokes was high. St. John Ambulance members were kept busy throughout the afternoon and took care of something approaching 40 people more or less severely affected by heat and the crowded conditions. Most of them were elderly people, and one woman was the subject or what was almost a mountain-side rescue effort. She was strapped to a stretcher and lowered down from the position where she had collapsed, high on the terraces.

Despite the high proportion of Scots in the audience a surprising number of articles went missing, ranging from a drum-major's gauntlet to smokers' pipes, drumsticks, and overcoats. The inevitable quota of small children reported weeping to the microphone for identification.

By to-morrow the pipers will all have gone, their temporary home at the racecourse will have gone, and Pukekura Park will present its usual neat appearance; New Plymouth will still have the memory of one of the most

colourful and stirring spectacle ever presented in the city.

TH, MARCH 30, 1949

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING OVERSEAS VISITORS FOR PARK

An increased number of overseas visitors were included in the record number who visited Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, in recent months, said the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, in his report to a meeting of the park committee yesterday.

All were loud in their praise of the natural beauties of the park and a party of overseas scientists, personally conducted by; Mr. Horton, was enthusiastic.

The boats and fernery were well patronised. Bad weather seriously affected the boat takings but they were still satisfactory. From Christmas until last week 5180 boat tickets and 12,332 fernery tickets were sold.

TH, MARCH 31, 1949

THOMAS HORTON'S LEAVING DO

"I feel that many of the trees planted here in my time will be here for centuries—kauri, rimu, totara, beech, will all show future generations the principal timber trees of the country," declared Mr. Thomas Horton, retiring superintendent of Pukekura Park, at a morning tea held in the park this morning.

Mr. Horton was entertaining members of the staff and wishing them farewell in view of his retirement from the position of superintendent of parks and reserves in New Plymouth, which will take effect from to-day.

The trees planted during the 25 years he had held the position were permanent—here and there one or two might be crowded out, or fall victims to gales—and they would constitute a pocket of native trees in the heart of the city when the natural bush was being pushed back further each year in New Zealand. Many of the plants in the park's fernery were almost extinct elsewhere, and they would be of great interest and value to students of native flora in future years.

Mr. Horton complimented the staff on the manner in which Pukekura and Brooklands Parks had always been kept, and thanked them for the co-operation he had been given. At conferences with other park superintendents from all over the Dominion he had discovered that comparable parks employed much larger numbers of men. The condition of the parks, which drew appreciative comments from many visitors, was due to the interest the members of the staff took in their work.

The thanks of the staff for the help and guidance given by Mr. Horton were expressed by Mr. L. Schonbachler, who will be acting superintendent until a permanent appointment is made, and by Mr. F. Parker, foreman at Brooklands. Mr. Schonbachler presented Mr. and Mrs. Horton with gifts from the staff and with a panoramic photograph of the sports ground at Pukekura Park during the recent Highland pipe band contests.

Mr. and Mrs. Horton will continue to live in New Plymouth only a short distance from the park. He would be a frequent and interested visitor, said Mr. Horton.



Street Maps around Pukekura Park: Left – 1937, Right – 1949.

Streets highlighted in orange indicate ones that had been formed and Streets not highlighted such as: Kaimata Street and List Street on the 1937 map had not been constructed at that time.

There are three major changes;

1. Between 1937 and 1949 Kaimata, Cornwall, Somerset, Exeter, Clovelly, Maranui and List Streets were constructed, which was tied up with the post war development of State Housing.
2. John Street and a portion of Wakefield Street became Rogan Street. During Horton's time what is now the Rogan Street entrance used to be the John Street entrance.
3. The section of Fillis Street in the park is removed on the 1949 map

Appendix 1 - Thomas Horton's Diaries

These are extracts from the Horton diaries which relate to plantings in the park. They have been extracted from the original handwritten diaries by Ian Hutchinson, Pukekura Park Botanical Records Officer. There are also some related newspaper extracts.

- 18 July 1924 – Received two Loquats from Mrs Wheeler – planted in nursery.
- 4 August 1924 – Order Rhodos., Marattias and Cyathea dealbata from D&D
- 7 August 1924 - Planted Cyatheas and Marattias, continued cleaning left bank opposite upper lake (from diary description it would appear Serpentine area had been cleaned up the previous day))
- 14 August 1924 – Fell pine tree and planted 12 Meryta sinclairii on Cannon Hill.
- 15 August 1924 – Planted Rhododendrons and split tree felled yesterday.
- 18 August 1924 – Planted Rhododendrons
- 21 August 1924 – Planted Marattias on upper native walk.
- 29 August 1924 – Mr Dempsey instructed me to take out Puriri stump in round bed and plant tree from Mr Wheeler.
- 2 September 1924 – Wheeler planted Elm
- Between 10th September and 4th November - most staff worked on clean-up and splitting of pines felled on John Street Walk
- 15 September 1924 – Trimming pines etc, self (TH) planting trees on newly cleared plot
- 18 September 1924 – Ordered plants for replanting the pine area
- 22 September 1924 – Started cleaning up John Street Walk, preparatory to planting
- 23 September 1924 – Self planting trees
- 25 September 1924 – Kauri, Rimu and other trees arrived. Mr Moorshead presented Tanekaha (*Phyllocladus alpinus*)
- 30 September 1924 – self planting in Nursery
- 3 October 1924 – self dug border near new pavilion
- 9 October 1924 – Mr Bridgeman brought parcel of Kahikatea, planted in nursery
- 8 November 1924 – Self and Joe planting etc. Put in annuals
- 17 March 1925 – TH collecting native tree seeds
- 21 March 1925 – TH collected native trees seeds etc
- 25 March 1925 – On site Board meeting near Spence's (where gully was filled in by Borough council to create the continuation of Gilbert Street from Liardet St to Victoria Road). Decided that planting would go ahead at right time and not ask Council for cost of this
- 21 April 1925 – Plants received from Maxwell's *Asplenium tenibrosum sanderii*, *Pteris comans* (very rare), *Colensoa sinclairii* and *Melicope ternata* var. *mantellii* (Chatham Islands)
- 29 April 1925 – Received trees from R Davies for the Park (Pohutukawa's?)
- 1 & 2 May 1925 – Planted hedge in Gilbert Street (Akeake, *Olearia traversiorum*. Hedge was actually Akiraho, *Olearia paniculata*) ex Moorshead. Heeled in Pohutukawas etc.
- 13 May 1925 – Mr Rawson gave parcel of young nikau's
- 15 May 1925 – Bought 80 plants to start at Spence's, natives mostly from Mr L.H. Goss. Planted pungas and natives at Spence's (Kowhai, Totara, Rimu, Karaka, *Cordyline*, Miro, Rewarewa, Holly)
- 16 May 1925 – Finished planting at Spence's, total 100 trees
- 18 May 1925 – TH made cuttings planted a few trees etc
- 19 May 1925 – Received *Marattia fraxinus* from Infant School grounds (per Infant School Committee, aka Central School)
- 26 May 1925 – Planted *Marattia fraxinus* (King Fern) stumps (possibly Stainton Dell as TH had also cleaned up the Iris bed which appears to have been in this part of the Park)
- 22 June 1925 – Cleaned up Vogeltown entrance and borders, dug places for pohutukawas etc. Visited D&D and ordered 56 trees for Jockey Club.
- 27 June 1925 – Heeled in trees on Rhodo block ready for planting on Racecourse bank
- 30 June 1925 – Planting Akeake etc
- 7 July 1925 – Planting Racecourse banks and various part of Park. (Taranaki Herald 22/7/25 “The sloping bank near the racecourse had been put in good order, and about 200 trees planted. When grown this should be one of the beauty spots of the park, some of the trees planted there being very rare indeed.”)
- 14 July 1925 – Planted pohutukawas and karakas on western side and most of the trees on the John Street extension area. (Taranaki Herald 22/7/25 “The vacant piece of land on the south side of John Street Walk had been prepared and planted. Along the western side of the Park the land had been dug and prepared where necessary and pohutukawa's and karaka's planted.”)
- 15 July 1925 – TH planting trees on John Street
- 16 July 1925 – TH digging and planting etc
- 28 July 1925 – TH planting near racecourse house
- 4 August 1925 – Ordered trees from D&D for racecourse extension planting

6 August 1925 – Planted peninsular at Racecourse, trees from D&D's

8 August 1925 – Planted pungas etc near Laurels by Carrington Road (Laurels = *Prunus laurocerassus*)

31 August 1925 – Got trees from Mr Ludlow for Park (Taranaki Herald 23/9/25 “He had to acknowledge receipt of 50 trees from Mr Ludlow of Vogeltown”)

2 September 1925 – Planted trees on old rubbish pit near red house, also akeake at Vogeltown entrance (Taranaki Herald 23/9/25 “50 *Olearia forsterii* had been planted at the Vogeltown entrance.....” “The old rubbish pit at the sportsground had been cleared out, filled with good soil and planted with trees.”)

7 September 1925 – Put in large *Camellia* by red shed. (*Camellia* ‘Devonia’ or ‘Kaka’? Single Rose, White, Red listed in D&D 1925 catalogue)

16 September 1925 – Planted begonias etc at vogeltown entrance

25 September 1925 – Received *Pinus torreyana* from Waugh

27 February 1926 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting TH “He had received 100 seedling pohutukawas from Mr William Putt and these had been planted in the nursery until strong enough to plant out.”

1 March 1926 – *Gunera scabra* (*G tinctoria*) name of large rough leaved herbaceous plant

9 April 1926 – Sowed seed of *Juniperus procera* from Kenya colony

1 May 1926 – TH Self wrenching nursery stock and planting pohutukawas received from Mr Taylor (Sports ground eastern terrace?)

10 May 1926 – TH Self planted young pohutukawas and wrenched some trees for transplanting

17 May 1926 – Cooper and self, digging for trees on hill (Eastern) in sports ground

25 May 1926 – Mr Moorshead here with Kirks NZ Flora. Name of tree near nursery and on bank of ditch *Eugenia maire*, *Maire-taiohake* (*Syzigium maire*)

26 May 1926 – V.C. Davies in Park for seeds and plants for which he promised to donate some golden pungas. Ordered 60 coprosmas from Parnell & Sons Wanganui. Taranaki Herald – Board meeting TH “He acknowledged the receipt of several trees of Californian redwood from Mr. Cowling of Westown and a quantity of Bulbs from Mr. Cock.”

11 June 1926 – Had macrocarpa, 12 kauri plants received from Johnston & Sons, Ponsonby Rd paid 8/6 costs.

14 June 1926 – Transplanted pungas from fernery site

16 June 1926 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting TH “During the month he had received 12 kauri trees from Messrs Johnston & Son, of Auckland. They were gifts, and as there were many suitable places for them, they were very acceptable. A parcel of small pohutukawa trees received from Mr. J. Wheeler, Vogeltown.”

24 June 1926 – Planted coprosmas etc

20 July 1926 – Mrs Graham offered to pay for puka trees to the value of £3

21 July 1926 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting TH Messrs Duncan & Davies: wrote offering to donate a collection of ferns, all correctly named, and in 36 to 40 varieties. Of a total value of about £5

27 July 1926 – Planted sequoia and other trees (possible trees might include: *Lagunaria*, *Liriodendron*, *Cupressus sempervirens*, *Picea abies*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Camellia Madame Pepin*, *Olearia argophylla*)

3 August 1926 – TH planting trees from Moorshead etc

12 August 1926 – *Hemitelia smithii* (*Cyathea smithii*) name of soft leaved tree fern. *Osmunda regalis*, royal fern

18 August 1926 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting TH “The trees donated by Mrs Graham had been planted in prominent and suitable positions, and all were doing well.”

14 September 1926 – Mr Moorshead here. Ordered 4 pohutukawa

18 September 1926 – Received case of cannas from Palmerston North

21 September 1926 – Mr Gordon Eady, 30 Park Rd., Onehunga here re *Bambusa japonica* – post some (*Pseudosasa japonica*, this bamboo can be found on Gover street frontage)

22 September 1926 – Mr Freethy brought Rhodos etc

23 September 1926 – TH Self planting nursery stock

24 September 1926 – Wrote to Peter Black thanking for cannas ordered.

29 September 1926 – Planted cannas in gully

30 September 1926 – Received 2 packets cannas from Hastings

11 October 1926 – *Leucopogon fasciculatus* native tree on Gilbert St near *viburnum sieboldii*. Mr Moorshead here to collect cuttings and brought *Aralia spinosa*

20 October 1926 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting TH “He acknowledged the gift of three tree ferns from Messrs. Earp Bros., of Vogeltown. These would be very helpful, particularly in connection with the work at the fernery.” “Mr. Spence reported that a party representing the Fernery Committee visited the Koru district on Saturday last and had secured a very nice collection of ferns etc., for the fernery. He also mentioned that Messrs. V.C. and R. Davies had offered to obtain a collection of ferns from the Bay of Plenty and other North island districts which they intended to visit shortly. The board decided to accept this offer and a sum not exceeding £5 was voted for the purpose.”

21 October 1926 – *Pimelia longifolia* grown by Mr. Wheeler

17 November 1926 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting TH “An offer was received from Messrs. Duncan & Davies to shelter the more delicate specimens of the fine collection of Native ferns made by them in conjunction with Mr Maxwell on a recent trip, until next autumn, which would be the most suitable season for transplanting. The offer was accepted with thanks for the generous spirit in which it was made.”

13 December 1926 – Man brought specimen of native Begonia, *Rhabdothamnus solandri*, Waiu-atua, lovely little orange red begonia like flowers. (This plant is actually NZ Gloxinia)

20 April 1927 – TH Self getting and planting Clematis. (4 May Taranaki Herald – Board meeting TH “One hundred and twenty native clematis had been planted to grow on the fernery protective fence.”)

21 April 1927 – Transplanting trees from Mr Wheeler

22 April 1927 – TH Self planting

26 April 1927 – TH Self planting Manuka near lakelet etc

28 April 1927 – TH Self planting left side of Racecourse Walk

29 April 1927 – Planted Rhododendrons near lakelet

4 May 1927 – TH Self gathering totara and other native plants

19 May 1927 – Planted lilies in the new lakelet, turned water on to new lake and put protective wire up. Mr Aldridge brought maples etc

27 May 1927 – Mr Moorshead brought ferns, *Loxoma cunninghamii*, *Gleichenia cunninhamii* and (*Lomaria*) [crown fern B. *discolor?*], *Blechnum fraseri*. Very grateful indeed

15 June 1927 – Planted *Cyathea*s etc in nursery

20 June 1927 – Planted first ferns in Fernery nursery bed, planted irises around lakelet

22 June 1927 – TH Self planting ferns in fernery. Yesterday visited site for proposed rockery with Mr Stainton. (Taranaki Herald 22 June 1927 – Board meeting – TH “The azalea dell had been overhauled and the ground dug. A few extra Manuka and other plants had been planted in the racecourse gully, also a few pohutukawa on hilltops in exposed positions.” “A nursery bed had been prepared on one house for the reception of ferns and he was now ready to receive all ferns promised. He had to acknowledge choice varieties from Mr. Moorshead and also canvas and flowering shrubs from Mr Wheeler. The lakelet in the gully beyond the fernery was now completed and was filled with water, the supply being abundant. On the three islands in the lakelet a totara and kauri and a rimu had been planted to grow as specimen trees. Coloured water-lilies had been planted in the lakelet and iris on the banks, and if they made good growth this part of the park should become very attractive.”)

23 June 1927 – D&D had 12 *Litsea*, 6 horopito

24 June 1927 – Received trees form Mr. Tunnycliffe

13 July 1927 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting – TH “The tops of two or three large tainui trees had been cut off and necessary room provided for the growth and development of more valuable trees nearby.” “The old iris bed had been dug and prepared for spring planting, and some 200 of the plants had been planted around the new lakelet.” “He was ready to receive all ferns that had been promised.” Sec “Correspondence was received from Mr Standish, of Tarata, promising his assistance in obtaining a number of Weka (*Weki*) pungas for the park.”

14 July 1927 – Received 25 varieties of ferns from Duncan & Davies

20 July 1927 – Mr Wheeler started planting ferns. TH self on rockery work

22 July 1927 – TH and Mr Wheeler collecting ferns at Frankleigh Park

25 July 1927 – TH collecting ferns back of racecourse

3 August 1927 – Planting ferns in number two chamber, received a parcel of ferns from Dr. Nairn

4 & 5 August 1927 – Collecting and planting ferns

9 August 1927 – Received ferns from Tauranga, Mr Gilbert and Mr Moorshead. Load of *Dicksonia fibrosa* arrived from Tarata

16 August 1927 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting – TH “In addition to ferns donated they had collected a great many themselves, and these had now been planted in position. The stocking of the chambers was well advanced, a total of 1071 ferns having been planted.” “Ferns and plants had been donated by Mr. F. Moorshead, Mr. W. Besley, Mr L.S. Mackie (*Otekeho*), Dr. R. Nairn (*Hastings*), J.H. Frethey, Duncan and Davies Ltd., Mrs J. Wheeler, Mr. J. Wheeler, Mrs Lovell (*Hawera*), and Mr. B. Sladden (*Tauranga*).” “The board’s best thanks were due to these donors, and more especially to Mr. Wheeler, who had materially assisted with the arrangement of the plants and with the work of planting. With his expert knowledge, his help had been invaluable.” “A load of tree ferns of the *Dicksonia fibrosa* variety was received from Tarata, and these had all been planted.”

18 August 1927 – Received ferns from Mr Besley. Varieties Mrs Maxwell will send us – *Doodia cordata*, *Polypodium novae-zelandiae*, *Trichomanes strictum*, *Asplenium bulbiferum* Titirangi creeping form, *Lindsaea*, *Pteris comans*

23 August 1927 – Planted cuttings on the dam face

30 August 1927 – Mr Maxwell here brought some ferns

31 August 1927 – Collected a nice lot of *Litsea* (*Mangeo*)

5 September 1927 – Planting nursery

7 September 1927 – Todeas from Mart., trees from Mr Moorshead various for park

9 September 1927 – Planted trees and plants gift of Mr Moorshead

16 September 1927 – Put in Cannas at old iris site and made new bed near fernery

28 September 1927 – Planted main canna bed and arounf lakelet

4 October 1927 – TH Self planting redwoods

12 October 1927 – Azaleas etc from Mr Davies. (Taranaki Herald 12/10/27 – Board meeting – TH “The thanks of the board are due to Mrs. Mason of Westown for the gift of *Lomaria alpine* for the fernery, and to other donors who wish to remain anonymous.”)

29 October 1927 – Received *Pteris comans* from Mr Sladden per D&D

8 December 1927 – Mr Moorshead brought plants of *Gleichenia cunnunghamii*, *G. dicarpa* var *alpina* and *Euphrasia*

6 February 1928 – Palm seeds from Fiji per Mr J.W. Rawlinson from Mr Frank Ducker planted in boxes and placed in fernery.

15 February 1928 – Filling in spaces in fernery with *Begonias*

2 April 1928 – *Primulas* and *Calceolarias* for fernery arrived from J Anderson, Napier

2 May 1928 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting – FJM (Francis Moorshead – acting Superintendent) “Mr. Chas. Cameron, of Tauranga, who had visited the fernery during Easter had written offering to collect in his district a number of varieties which be an acquisition to the collection already planted.” “Mr. Spence reported that Mrs. David Morrison had kindly donated a collection of Samoan ferns to the park. Thanks were accorded Mrs. Morrison and Mr. Cameron for their donations.”

22 & 23 May 1928 – Rawson and FJM wrenching trees above fernery

14 June 1928 – Mr. E. Maxwell sent three new ferns

27 June 1928 – Nine new ferns received form Mr. C.J. Shepherd, 152 Glasgow St, Wanganui, a fern enthusiast who lived here recently (posted to Mr Wheeler)

2 July 1928 – FJM called on Messrs. Mackie & Davis at Otakeho, was offered more ferns than could carry on motorbike, Must go again soon and collect balance of plants, brought 5 new varieties.

18 July 1928 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting – FJM “Plants had been donated by Miss Devenish and Messrs. F. Parker and E. Zumbach, a large banana tree by Mr. Hancock, Fitzroy; ferns by Messrs. E. Maxwell, Rahotu; C.J. Shepherd of Wanganui and Davis & Mackie of Otakeho.” “The donations acknowledged above included 14 species and varieties not previously received. Some of them, notably several sent by Mr. Shepherd, are rare and a decided acquisition to the collection.”

23 July 1928 – Received by post ferns from Mr. Dobbie parcel ferns, 3 new varieties for fernery.

15 August 1928 – FJM Planting ferns and cineraria’s fernery entrance

31 August 1928 – Mr. Mackie, Otakeho sent collection of ferns

14 September 1928 – FJM Cycled to Mt Messenger for ferns, collected a nice lot of *Lindsaya* and others, also plants of *Dracophyllum* and *Gautheria*

18 September 1928 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting – FJM “Plants had been donated Messrs. J. Bain and Q. Watkins, collections ferns by Mr. C. Cameron (Tauranga) and Mr Mackie (Otakeho). The former sent a fine collection of ferns, many which were rare species and varieties. Mr. J. wheeler donated a pedestal and two rustic hanging baskets. Mr. L.J. Wright (Wanganui) had sent per Mrs. Nicolls (Otakeho), a root of *Davllia tasmanii*, which was found only of the Three Kings Islands.” “Work on the bank in front of the fernery had been completed and the terrace planted, while the enclosed area above had been cleared, stumps being removed. The area in front had been planted with tree ferns and the surface prepared for sowing down with grass seed.” “The fern collection now comprised 112 recognised species and varieties, besides many local variations of the types which had been collected and sent in by interested collectors.”

25 September 1928 – Received from Messrs Duncan & Davies Ltd (donation) 10 varieties *metrosideros* (climbing rata) for planting on the fernery bank

26 & 27 September 1928 FJM Planting out in fernery

3 October 1928 – FJM and V.C. Davies botanised Paritutu for ferns etc

4 October 1928 – FJM planting in fernery

12 October 1928 – Choice *Begonia* seed purchased by Mr Horton (in UK) sown in trays of special soil at fernery

25 October 1928 – Received case lot of ferns from Tauranga. Very fine lot

26 October 1928 – Francis Moorshead attended to the ferns received from Mr Cameron, Tauranga

30 October 1928 – Preparing soil and potting *Begonias*

5 November 1928 – Potting up baskets with *Begonias*, *Nephrolepsis*, trailing *lobelia* also *Gloxinia* and fern baskets (plants from F Parker)

12 November 1928 – Received ferns from Mr Cameron, Tauranga, *Blechnum capensis* var *minor*, *Lycopodim* dwarf (*L. scariosum*?), and two other ferns

20 November 1928 – Received 2 dozen basket *Begonias* from Parker and planted same

12 December 1928 – Planted out *begonias* to permanent positions in No. one chamber (Taranaki Herald 12/12/28 – Board Meeting – TH “The ferns and other plants were in good order and doing well. Several new varieties had recently come to hand and the board’s thanks are due to Messrs. Cameron, of Tauranga, Mackie, of Hawera, and F.J. Moorshead, who had assisted so materially in the work of collecting. They now had the most complete collection of New Zealand ferns in the Dominion and was hopeful that the time was not far distant, when the collection will be absolutely complete. The few required were being sought for by collectors who are intensely interested in the fernery. *Begonias* were being grown with a view to adding colour and beauty to the interior of the glasshouse. These were doing exceptionally well. Mr. and Mrs. Sargood, of Dunedin, who were visitors recently had promised to donate some blue water lilies (*Nymphaea braziliensis*). These were coming from Western Australia and would be a decided acquisition to the collection already in the park.”)

7 January 1929 – *Rhododendrons* from England arrived in good order

10 January 1929 – Mr Wheeler finished cutting out on large face in No. 3. Planted new work and in fernery all day

11 January 1929 – Finished planting in No. 3 chamber

14 February 1929 – TH “The *Rhododendrons* selected and purchased by Mr. Horton when in England had come to hand in excellent order and were planted in the nursery to be acclimatised. He was pleased to say there was not one plant in the whole

importation that was not healthy and doing well. This was due entirely to the fact that he was able to arrange for cool storage freight. The extra cost for this was proved to be quite justified.”

5 March 1929 – Francis (Moorshead) brought in another new fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adders tongue)

22 April 1929 – TH Collected and planted ferns in the main entrance tunnel

25 April 1929 – TH Gathered pohutukawas from the Hospital grounds

31 April 1929 – TH Got shrubs from C. Saunders and planted most of them out. Collected totaras

2 & 3 May 1929 – TH Collecting a few native plants, heeled in

5 May 1929 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting – TH “The following gifts had been received: From Mr. C. Saunders – very fine collection of ornamental and flowering shrubs; Mr. J. Wheeler a punga pedestal for the fernery; Mr. M. Kenzie (chairman of the Auckland Harbour Board), a pure bred white Muscovy drake; Mrs. Richmond (Auckland), seeds.

27 May 1929 – TH Collected rockery plants from Mr Autridge and prepared for planting

7 June 1929 – Making up baskets of *Nephrolepis cordifolia*

10 June 1929 – TH Planted 47 pohutukawas on John Street hill (Taranaki Herald 12/6/29 – Board meeting – TH “On the top of the John Street hill they had planted 47 more pohutukawa trees, which made a total of 75 planted at this spot.”)

11 June 1929 – TH Planted trees at the Brooklands end

12 June 1929 – TH planted more pohutukawas

24 June 1929 – TH finished planting pohutukawas in sportsground

26 & 27 June 1929 – TH Planting rockery (rockery at the Fernery entrance. Received Banksia and rockery plants from Mr & Mrs Wheeler

1 July 1929 – TH Transplanting Rhodos and azaleas and plants growing about the old Rhodo beds

2 July 1929 – TH Finished planting Rhododendron bed. Trees came from Webb’s Nurseries

12 July 1929 – Overhauling cannon hill TH Self planting Rhododendrons etc

22 July 1929 – TH Planted Veronicas (Hebes) on rockery gift of D&D

23 July 1929 – TH Self planting Ericas and tree ferns etc

25 July 1929 – TH Planted pungas on old nursery site and Ericas etc

2 August 1929 – TH Planted Paulonia

12 August 1929 – Received ferns from D&D

14 August 1929 – Taranaki Herald – Board meeting – TH “The council are now carrying out improvements at the Brooklands corner of the park and this work makes it necessary to remove a number of trees we have recently planted and the removal and setting back of the fence for a few chains of its length at this place.”

28 & 29 August 1929 – TH Self planting pohutukawas in nursery (800)

30 August 1929 – Self Cooper and Whilely digging border at Vogeltown entrance, planting English Rhododendrons etc

4 September 1929 – TH Planted potatoes in nursery and Thuja gigantea in Rhodo. Dell

7 September 1929 – Received one case 35 water lilies from Perth, received in good order

9 September 1929 – Planted blue water lilies and planting nursery

10 September 1929 – TH Self planting young pungas etc

12 September 1929 – TH Self finished planting nursery

5 October 1929 – TH Potted *Cypripediums* etc

17 October 1929 – TH this has been a Red Letter Day in this Park’s history – a great function was held at which the deeds of the Park were handed over to the mayor by Mr Amoor. Appropriate speeches were made and Mr R.C. Hughes gave a resume of the Park’s early history. After the Mayor had planted memorial Kauri tree, afternoon tea was served and a donation of £100 was received.”

9 December 1929 – TH Moorshead brought collection ferns from South Island

2 July 1930 – TH Self planted a few trees on point leading to Sports Ground

16 July 1930 – TH Received trees from F. Parker and planted. Put in Pohutukawas at croquet corner and along back of Park Brooklands Road (60 Pohutukawa, 60 assorted natives)

23 July 1930 – Trees from Webb

24 July 1930 – TH Self planting trees near Chainey’s. Ordered native plants at D&D

25 July 1930 – Trees from D&D arrived

29 July 1930 – Digging out young sycamores and cleaning up, planting etc

8 August 1930 – TH Planted pohutukawa hedge near new house

11 August 1930 – TH Planted native and other trees

12 August 1930 – TH Finished planting Pohutukawas John Street side and trees in front of new house

21 August 1930 – TH Self planting. Put in vines

25 & 26 August 1930 – TH Self planting. Plants received from Mr J Wheeler

28 August 1930 – TH Planted 30 Pohutukawas

2 September 1930 – TH Planted trees on hilltop by flagpole (3 sequoia, 3 Thuja gigantea, 2 Kauri, and 30 pohutukawa)

6 September 1930 TH Planted totara hedge (Mason Drive)

15 September 1930 – TH Planted in nursery, completed this 20 September

23 September 1930 – TH Planting and overhauling old house timber

1 October 1930 – Lou and Geo and self on long island etc. Planted trees from D&D

26 March 1931 – TH Planted large punga by lake. Worked on rockery extension. Work gang still in gully behind sports ground

8 & 9 April 1931 – TH Wrenching

15 April 1931 – Moorshead on Hydrangea bed

20 April 1931 – TH Measuring to locate Rutherford's boundary. Mr Archibald here and brought Hydrangeas

23 April 1931 – TH Dug new leaf mould pit and completed and marked out the new Hydrangea bed

28 July 1931 – TH Planted trees on hill near Fillis Street and old house site (Taranaki Herald 12/8/31 – Park Committee Meeting – TH “Pohutukawas and karaka had been planted on the hilltop at the back of the sportsground; seventy assorted native trees and 100 totaras (for a hedge) had been planted on the old cottage site.”)

29 July 1931 – Men felling Blue gums etc. Planting trees etc

5 August 1931 – Cutting up macrocarpa posts etc (Macrocarpa fallen by glow worm cave, Hughes Walk) and planting 22 pungas

6 & 7 August 1931 – TH Planted 30 tree ferns on hillside by caves, finished clearing away macrocarpa which came down

12-15 August – Planted trees on top of hill by pines (hilltop adjacent to Sports ground eastern terraces)

18-20 August 1931 – TH Self and Arthur digging and planting bottom of John Street Walk

25-30 August 1931 – TH Transplanting nursery stock and putting nursery in order

1 & 2 September 1931 – TH Self and Arthur nursery, planting young natives

15 September 1931 – TH Burning rubbish on hill back Sports Ground and planted 40 nikau and 50 totara in park

22 September 1931 – TH Planting 80-100 trees on hilltop where pines (dead) were taken down

23 September 1931 – TH Self planting Kowhai etc same place

24 September 1931 – TH Planting trees in gully off sportsground where sycamores were taken out

25 September 1931 – TH Self planting in Gully back of sportsground

12 May 1932 – Taranaki Herald – Park Committee Meeting – “As a method of celebrating the 21st anniversary of the formation of the Girl Guide movement, the provincial commissioner for Taranaki (Mrs. D.K. Morrison) suggested that 21 trees be planted by the local Girl Guides in the park during the last week in May and consideration of the proposal was asked for by the commissioner.”

23-30 May 1932 – TH Preparation for planting old boat site by lake (tea house lake edge?) Prepared ground for planting various sites. Girl Guides planted 22 trees near old cottage site on 27th (Taranaki Herald 15/6/32 – Park Committee Meeting – TH “On May 27 the Girl Guides and their friends planted 22 trees, nearly all natives. These were well and truly planted under his supervision, and he felt sure would do well and be a fine addition to the flora in this part of the park.” (See; Taranaki Herald 26/2/1936: 3 kauri, 7 Norfolk pine, 2 puriri, 5 libocedrus, 7 Sequoia, and inside these 37 pongas, 15 kowhai, 110 pohutukawas and 50 assorted natives)

2-9 June 1932 – Felling gums and digging for planting in sports ground

12-16 June 1932 – Cutting back half dead trees and cleaning up generally around Totara Hillside (Monument Hillside) and long island. Visited D&D's nursery and Mr Sanders and dug up plants donated to park

17 & 18 June 1932 – TH Planted tall growing conifers and other trees on all hilltops, also Quercus ilex near tennis and croquet greens

22 & 23 June 1932 – TH Planting lawsonianas along Brooklands road and other trees Brooklands corner

24 & 25 June 1932 – Planting and overhauling area near Totara Hill

1, 2 & 4 July 1932 – Cleaning up near maze planting trees etc

18-20 July 1932 – TH Cleaned up 3 islands in the Main Lake. Planting trees near men's W.C.

27 July 1932 – TH Planting azaleas

10 August 1932 – Taranaki Herald – Park Committee Meeting – TH “Donations of trees and plants had been received from Messrs. Duncan and Davies, Anderson and Sons, of Napier, and Mr J. Wheeler.”

15 & 16 August 1932 – TH Planted Racecourse Hillside etc. Planted near W.C.'s

18 & 19 August 1932 – TH Planted 10 pohutukawa Flagpole Hill and few other trees various places

20-22 August 1932 – TH Started overhauling John Street borders and planting etc

30-31 August 1932 – TH Planted young pohutukawas in nursery

1-6 September 1932 – TH Finished planting nursery and planted extra trees in gaps various parts of park

29 September 1932 – TH Planted a hedge on Park and Simmons boundary

17 & 18 October 1932- Clearing out drain off Sports Ground (King Fern Gully) grubbing wattles etc

22 October 1932 – TH Planted trees from Mr Zumbach

9 November 1932 – Taranaki Herald – Park Committee Meeting – TH “The superintendent reported that in addition to routine work a boundary fence had been erected between the park and Mr. Simmons' property and a hedge had been planted. Mr. Simmons had found the material and the park staff had done the work. Forty king ferns had been planted in the gully at the back of the sportsground. The drain in this gully had been trimmed and cleared of weeds and rubbish. On the brow of the hill above the rhododendrons and azaleas, 100 totaras, 86 coprosma and 15 assorted native trees had been planted.” “The board passed votes of thanks to the following for donations: Mr. Zumbach (dahlias and other plants) and Mr. and Mrs. L. Little (a sack pollard for the ducks).”

3 April 1933 – TH Wrenched trees in nursery, overhauled orchids, potting primulas

11-14 July 1933 – All hands at lake work, King's hauler got logs out of lake (Bowl Lake), water lilies thinned out, planted 53 mamaku's around banks of lake

18 & 19 July 1933 – Started men on preparing Fillis Street work of preparing for hedge

8 August 1933 – TH Digging hillside and around trees. Planting few trees (previous day Arthur and Horton had been digging on hillside by house)

10 & 11 August 1933 – TH Planting kauri, pungas, pohutukawas in Fillis Street

17 August 1933 – Sanders Rhododendron Grande arrived

18 August 1933 – TH Planted above tree

21 August 1933 – TH Planted few trees and dug around others

23 & 24 August 1933 – TH Planted few trees etc after digging through pohutukawas on hill by pines

28 August 1933 – TH Planted island in lower lake, Azaleas (20) presented by D&D

1 September 1933 – Taranaki Herald – Park Committee Meeting – “The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that during the month the cleaning of the lower lake had been completed and the lake was again full. Many of the fish which had been put into a small stream had been caught and returned to the lake. The lily lake had also been cleaned and the lilies thinned out. A concrete outlet for the overflow of water from the lily lake had been constructed and a punga railing erected. About 70 pungas had been planted in the gaps on the banks of the two lakes. The island had been planted with about 50 trees, and the paths had been regraded and metalled.” “The wattles which were overhanging the path on the western side of the main entrance had been cut, and the face of the hill at the eastern end of the iron fence had been cut back to allow room for the planting of a hedge.” “A belt of pohutukawas had been planted along the fence line on the flat and this would be extended to the boundary. Thanks were due to Messrs. Duncan and Davies for a donation of azaleas and to Mr. R.W. Davies for a donation of fifty pungas. The Rhododendron “Grande”, bequeathed to the park by late Mr. C. Sanders, had been received and planted temporarily in one of the beds near the fernery. It was in good condition, and was just coming into bloom.”

4 September 1933 – Preparing for planting extension of Fillis Street hedge

8, 9 & 11 September 1933 – Overhauling and planting nursery

14 & 15 September 1933 – planted balance of pohutukawas at front of Rutherford's Fillis Street

5 April 1934 – Visit of the Board and planting Kauri by Mr Hughes. Board decided and authorised me to have pines trimmed and to plant Fillis Street gully with natives not now in the Park. (Taranaki Herald 5/4/1934 – Park Committee Meeting – “Held in the park Thursday April 5 1934” “The Chairman advised that the Board members desired to take the opportunity of honouring Mr. R.C. Hughes for his long and efficient service in connection with the Pukekura Park, by asking him the plant a kauri tree at the head of the lower lily pond. The kauri tree was well and truly planted by Mr. Hughes, who returned thanks for the honour conferred on him, and his remarks were ably supported by his wife.”) The kauri tree had been supplied by Mr. V.C. Davies. (Unfortunately by June 1956 the tree was not faring well with roughly 50% of the foliage having browned off. Probably affected by the high water table in this location below the Main Lake Dam. It had been planted on a patch of lawn, created by reclaiming part of a water lily pond that used to be there.)

21 April 1934 – TH Rhododendrons arrived from England

22 April 1934 – TH Planted Rhododendrons from England

1 May 1934 – TH Planted ferns from Egmont and heeled in Native plants

2 May 1934 – TH Planting burying rubbish in Rhod. Dell cleaning up

16 May 1934 – TH Sent order for Rhodos to A.H. Goudie

5-7 June 1934 – Lou and soldiers cutting and clearing the lake bank (Taranaki Herald 24/7/1934 – Park Committee Meeting – “The banks of the large lake had been trimmed and 50 pongas planted. Twenty or thirty more were to be planted.”)

21 June 1934 – TH Self and Arthur planted 140 native trees on clay face at Racecourse

26 June 1934 – TH Self, Arthur and Palmer marking out and preparing for tree planting back boundary Brooklands

27 June 1934 – Lou and men fencing off area for planting from Gables to pines

10 July 1934 – TH Planted Lawsoniana at Brooklands

11 July 1934 – TH Planted Thuja etc at Kings

18 July 1934 – Arthur shifting large Lawsons

20 July 1934 – Arthur finished planting natives at Brooklands and marked out for macrocarpa back of Bonds, McKays etc

24 July 1934 – TH Planting macrocarpas and natives (Taranaki Herald 24/7/1934 – Park Committee Meeting – “Trees planted at Brooklands totalled 925. They included 250 cupressus lawsoniana, 340 assorted Native, 35 Thuja gigantea, 200 macrocarpa and 100 pohutukawas.”)

6 August 1934 – TH digging trenches for Rhodos trimming macrocarpa trees etc. Started digging holes for trees on Racecourse. Duncan and Davies rhododendrons delivered for the Sanders bequest. All in good order but some ordered were not sent and quite a number were delivered that were not ordered.

7 August 1934 – TH Goudies Rhodos delivered for Sander bequest. All in good order. Panted all the above

8 August 1934 – TH Labelling Rhodos and listing them

10 August 1934 – Rhodos delivered from Stead, Christchurch. Planted same and attached numbered wooden labels. Mr McLeod here and gave instructions re Racecourse planting

29-31 August 1934 – TH Self planting Rhododendrons, balance from nursery

5 September 1934 – TH In Fillis Street gully all day. Took load of trees there and received collection of rare native trees from D&D

11-14 September 1934 – All hands preparing Fillis Street gully for planting

24 September 1934 – Planted trees in nursery bed on Fillis Street

26 September 1934 – TH Wrote up Rhododendrons in stock book

28 September 1934 – TH Planting few trees etc

29 September 1934 – TH Planted pungas in nursery and at Brooklands

31 October 1934 – Received case lot of plants from Andersons of Napier

14 May 1935 – TH Wrenched part of the pohutukawas in sportsground that are to be shifted

4 June 1935 – TH Shifted some pohutukawas to Fillis Street section

6 June 1935 – Plants from Napier arrived safely

15 June 1935 – TH Brooklands Road area recommended for planting. 250 yards by 50 yards. 200 lawsoniana outside row for shelter at approximately 4ft apart. 22 rows of native trees at 6ft apart 125 trees per row. Total 2750 trees. 250 White pines Podocarpus dacrydioides, 250 totara Podocarpus totara, 250 rimu Dacrydium cupressinum, 625 kauri agathis australis, 250 matai Podocarpus spicatus, 125 birch Nothofagus in variety 125 hinau Elaeocarpus dentatus, 125 maire Olea lanceolata, 125 pukatea Laurelia novae-zealandiae, 250 puriri Vitex lucens, 125 kohekohe Dysoxylon spectabile, 125 yellow pine Dacrydium intermedia, 125 miro Podocarpus ferugineus

1 & 2 July 1935 – Lou, Arthur, and self (TH) planting at Brooklands

10 July 1935 – Taranaki Herald – Park committee Meeting – “The five hundred macrocarpa trees procured from the Borough Council had been planted. A further one hundred and also one hundred lawsoniana plants were required to complete the season’s shelter planting.” “Mr. Short was thanked for the gift of a cypress tree which had been planted on the old memorial site.”

18 July 1935 – Arthur planting pungas etc

7 August 1935 – Arthur planted Lawson’s at Brooklands

14 August 1935 – Taranaki Herald – Park committee Meeting – “Eighty pongas had been planted in various parts of the park, and 50 native trees had been added to the Fillis Street planting.” “At Brooklands 200 lawsoniana had been planted for sheltering the bush gully and the rose beds had been renewed by the planting of about 48 new trees in place of a similar number that were old and diseased.” “TREE PLANTATION (Kauri Grove) THE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT BOARD MEMBERS EXPRESS APPROVAL – SUGGESTED TREES AND QUANTITIES – Mr. Horton suggested the following list of trees for the plantation: 250 each of white pine, totara, rimu, matai, puriri; 125 each of birch, hinau, maire, kohekohe, yellow pine, miro; 625 of kauri; total, 2750; also 200 lawsoniana for shelter.”

2-4 September 1935 – TH Self Arthur planting trees in Fillis Street Gully and nursery, Kauris etc

5 September 1935 – Planting trees in nursery etc

10 September 1935 – Planted ferns on islands etc

23 September 1935 – Board members and Borough Council visited park for inspection of Gover Street sites and proposed planting at Brooklands

26 February 1936 – Taranaki Herald – DETAILS OF PLANTING – “To particularise 220 trees have been planted to the south and west of the pines on the hill-top west of Fillis Street Gully, comprised of 24 karaka, 86 pohutukawas, 25 kowhai, 5 Norfolk pine, 5 libocedrus (cedar), 3 kauri, 2 Thuja gigantea and 70 other native skyline trees.” “In the Fillis Street Botanic reserve 96 trees, mostly rare varieties of natives, and forming the nucleus of a botanic collection have been planted. These trees have mostly been donated to the committee exclusively for the purpose. The plan calls for a further 850 native trees in this section, but it is not advisable to plant there so long as the pines now under consideration are existent.” “In order to fortify the hill behind the southern terraces of the sportsground, and behind the front line of pines, there have been planted 75 pohutukawas, 18 kauri, 20 rimu, 22 totara, 6 hoheria, 6 rewarewa, 8 libocedrus, 4 lawsoniana, 3 Norfolk pine, 1 wellingtonia and 70 natives assorted for dense sky-line a total of 233 major and dense foliage trees.” “On the flagpole hill behind the outside stand on the racecourse have been planted 38 trees, comprising 3 Sequoia, 3 Thuja gigantea, 2 kauri and 30 pohutukawa, already 6 to 10 feet high and growing well. Trees planted on the hill between the pines and the racecourse on the south side of what is known as the racecourse walk total 115 and comprise 10 kauri, 6 libocedrus (cedar), 6 Thuja gigantea, 3 Norfolk pine, 2 sequoia and 88 assorted natives.” “On the west side of the sportsground behind the terraces have been planted 3 Wellingtonia gigantea and 20 assorted natives, while on the east side between the terraces and the hedge 70 pohutukawas and flowering gums are making substantial growth and will soon be a distinctive feature of this hillside.” “On Victoria road hill, from Carrington Road entrance to the superintendent’s residence, there have been planted on the sky-line 3 kauri, 7 Norfolk pine, 2 puriri, 5 libocedrus, and 7 Sequoia, and inside these 37 pongas, 15 kowhai, 110 pohutukawas and 50 assorted natives.” “On the hillside to the east of the superintendent’s residence, where originally 6 pinus insignis trees were removed, some of them dying and dangerous, 80 assorted trees now from 3 to 15 feet in height are making excellent and dense growth.” “On Victoria Road at the exposed southwest corner near the croquet courts 60 pohutukawas and 10 natives assorted have been planted. On the west side of the of the main lake and up to the tennis courts 60 evergreen oaks, 30 karo and 40 assorted natives are making good growth, while on Totara Hill, where none previously grew, 7 sky-line trees are doing well.” “Also from the Vogeltown entrance right to Brooklands shelter and native trees have been planted which give efficient shelter from the mountain and southerly blows.” “Approximately a further 600 trees, mostly native, have been planted throughout the park area, mainly to fortify weaker parts.” (Chairman’s response to public criticism of pine removals in Park, and the replanting programme undertaken in the previous 10 years)

31 March 1936 – Brooklands forest tree planting job started

17 April 1936 – Received 200 rimu from Mr. Knight

22 April 1936 – Wrenching nursery trees etc

25 April 1936 – Wrenched pohutukawas

1 May 1936 – TH Self gathered young native plants

9 May 1936 – Supplied rockery plants to Moorshead for ladies rest room rockery

18 May 1936 – Inspection of pine areas in Park. Authorised the planting of one row of about 6 pines and balance mostly Thuja gigantea, back of horseshoe bend also to remove pine, planes etc next to racecourse and plant row of tall growing trees.

1 June 1936 – TH Made start to transplant Rhododendrons. Shifted all the imported ones from the nursery

2 June 1936 – Put in full day at Rhododendrons

3-6 June 1936 – Transplanting rhododendrons to permanent positions

8 June 1936 – Planted small Rhododendrons in nursery rows

10 June 1936 – TH Planting trees at back of Brooklands

16 June 1936 – N.H. Kitchingman, Mill Road offer Thuja gigantea, purchased all he had 30 trees

18 June 1936 – Received kauri and other trees. Planting Thuja gigantea (Thuja plicata)

20 June 1936 – Planted pines etc

22 June 1936 – Meeting of the Board 8.30am in Park. Decided to plant on Cannon Hill, alternate Thuja gigantea, and macrocarpa

29 June 1936 – Took ngaios up to planting job, trimmed totara ready for planting, planted 35 trees on Cannon Hill

17 July 1936 – Marked places for trees near racecourse. Planted Thuja near Brooklands entrance. Lawsonianas arrived.

22 July 1936 – All hands going strong clearing, burning, planting etc near Racecourse

23 July 1936 Cleaning up Racecourse path, burning etc, planted few Thujas

5 August 1936 – Arbor Day. Planted Macs and put in first trees on new forest area

6 August 1936 – Men marking out planting job etc, planted few trees

7 August 1936 – Planting trees all day all hands. Started digging swampy area

10-13 August 1936 – Planting new forest area (Taranaki Herald 12/8/1936 – Park committee Meeting – “The cleaning up of branches and rubbish next to the racecourse had been completed and around 30 trees had been planted there.” “The first section of the new forest planting scheme had begun and the preparation of the land, except for the swamp area was completed this week.” “One hundred macrocarpa trees were planted to fill the gaps and to extend the area planted two years ago at the south-west side of the Brooklands bush.” “It was decided that in recognition of Arbor Day members of the committee should plant native timber trees in Brooklands on Saturday morning. Mr. Horton said the Brooklands possessed one of the finest timber reserves in the Dominion.”)

15 August 1936 – Member of the board planted tree each at Brooklands

17-19 August 1936 – Planting etc

24 August 1936 – Planting all day, new forest

28 August 1936 – Cutting turf etc and planting trees

3 September 1936 – Dug old house site, planted a few trees

8 September 1936 – Planted white pines in swamp

9 September 1936 – Taranaki Herald – Park Committee Meeting – TH “Planting of the new native forest area had been completed. Trees to the value of £106 15s had been planted. The total cost of labour, trees, and fencing was approximately £300. The work had been well done and he was confident the scheme would be a great success.”

9 October 1936 – TH Received and planted native plants from Mr Cameron per R. Deare

3 March 1937 – TH Self grubbing ready to transplant pohutukawas

20 & 21 April 1937 – Digging holes for trees, Fillis Street hill-top where pines were

26 April 1937 – Marking out and digging ready for planting Fillis Street

27 & 28 April – Transplanting pohutukawas on hilltop

5 & 6 May 1937 – Planting pungas round lake and cleaning up long island

17 May 1937 – Finished long island, wrenched trees etc. Transplanted more large pohutukawas

20 May 1937 – TH Dug hillside to house and transplanted few trees

26 May 1937 – TH Getting tree ferns for lake side. P.H. Bartle, Opunake re pungas 3ft, donation

3 June 1937 – TH Marked out and dug places for trees in Fillis Street. Arthur planting pungas

4 June 1937 – Planting pungas etc

15-18 June 1937 – Preparing Fillis Street for planting, removed fence at corner of Brooklands road ready to extend new forest area

21-24 June 1937 – All hands preparing for planting Fillis Street. Got balance of large pohutukawas transferred. Planted Kauris and general collection of natives.

28 June 1937 – Lou Alex digging for forest extension. TH Self planting Fillis Street

29 June 1937 – TH Planted hedges corner Liardet Street. Planted Rhodo swamp area white pines etc

30 June 1937 – Planted 70 pohutukawas hilltop corner of Brooklands Road. Finish digging on forest extension area

1 July 1937 – Men digging for planting trees right at back of Brooklands

2 July 1937 – Preparing for planting back of Brooklands. Planted another 70 Pohutukawas Brooklands Road corner

5 July 1937 – Clearing off paddock to be planted with pines

6-8 July 1937 – Planted 150 Lawsons and 110 Macs

15 & 16 July 1937 – Planted 550 Pinus radiata at Brooklands

Trees planted in Forest.

<i>Permanent:</i>	<i>Lawsonia</i>	<i>in nursery</i>
350. Kauri		250
50. Titoki	150	100
50. Taraire		
100. Rimu	100	200
25. Hinau	25	
25. Tōtēhauhuri	100	200
25. Kēwa-pawa	100	100
25. Pūhakea	25	200
50. Māngahoe		150
200. Pohutukawa	200	150
200. Ngāio	20	
100. Red Beech	25	
50. Silver	25	
25. Maire	100	
10. Tōre		
50. Tānekaha	50	
200. White Pine	100	400
100. Matai		
150. Tōtara	150	400
50. Tawapou		
200. Kōwhai	500	1000
10. Puriri	20	100
25. Tōwai		
100. Lawsoniana	50	
42. Thuja plicata	150	
2249. Total	also	
3573		
3715		
	Matiso	200
	Facobart	300
	Total	3700

5 August 1937 – Transplanted row of Thuja for a shelter break at Brooklands

9-11 August 1937 – Planted extension forest area. Arbor Day. Trees planted by Mayor and members of Board. (Taranaki Herald 11/8/1937 – Park committee Meeting – “Extensive tree planting, had been carried out during the season. This included 160 Lawsoniana. At Brooklands 250 macrocarpas had been planted to protect the native bush in the gully running towards Avenue Road corner and Upjohn Street.” “At the back of the old orchard site at Brooklands 550 pinus radiata had been planted behind the old pine plantation.” “Native timber trees to the number of 360 had been planted in the extension of the forest area at Brooklands and 40 white pines had been put in the swamp ground near the Rhododendrons.” “Around the lake and in other parts of Pukekura Park 165 tree ferns had been put in and 650 native trees were planted in the new botanic reserve at Fillis Street.” “This made a total of 2175 trees planted. The shelter trees supplied from the borough nursery were a very fine type and well grown.” “He had 28 trees left to be planted in the forest to mark Arbor Day.” “Board members pointed out that the large amount of planting done during the season was in keeping with the spirit of Arbor Day. It was decided that each member of the committee should plant a tree some time during the day.” “Appreciation of the generosity of the Bruce Trust in making possible the Native forest plantation was expressed, and it was decided to erect a notice board in recognition of this. At present there are about 3500 trees in the plantation, including 330 kauris.”

16 August 1937 – TH Self at forest planting

18 August 1937 – All hands at forest work. Finished filling in gaps and dug around trees, Brooklands Road

23 August 1937 – Lou, Don and TH overhauling nursery, transplanting digging etc

26 & 27 August 1937 – Mowing and cleaning hillside below Vogelstown Walk and by grass plot to Sportsground etc. TH planting young natives

30 August 1937 – Mowed bank and cleaned up walk top end of racecourse Walk. Planted young puriris. Pungas from H.M. Bartle, Opunake

8 & 9 September 1937 – Planted lawsonianas on racecourse. Trees supplied were very good

21 September 1937 – TH Planting young native trees in nursery

2 October 1937 – TH Self mountain collecting Leptopteris etc

7 October 1937 – Planting natives in nursery

22 April 1938 – TH wrenching native trees

2 May 1938 – Started 2 men on forest extension work. TH cleaning up the first flower bed and shifting the ‘Grande’ Rhododendron

4 May 1938 – TH Wrenching necessary nursery stock at forest area

27 July 1938 – Trees arrived from D&D for forest planting. Put in kauri and heeled in others

3 & 4 August 1938 – Planting native trees at forest extension

8 August 1938 – Planting forest extension

9-12 August 1938 – TH Planting forest (Taranaki Herald 10/8/1938 – Park committee meeting – “The digging for the forest extension area near Brooklands Road was now completed, stated the superintendent Mr. T.H. Horton, in his report to the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board last night. The trees were now, being planted, Sated Mr. Horton, and he expected to complete the work this week.” “The new list of trees being planted would include 180 more kauri trees. Fences were no longer required for protection purpose, and these were now being taken down and all good posts, battens and wire carefully stored.”)

16 & 17 August 1938 – Lou and TH completing the planting of the forest extension scheme

6 & 7 September 1938 – Planting nursery stock

8 October 1938 – Planted Rhodos and other plants given us by Steve cox

12 October 1938 – Planted nursery kowhais

9-11 May 1939 – TH Collecting native plants and heeling them in

12 & 13 May 1939 – TH Getting particulars of areas that may be suitable for Tennis Courts and Croquet Greens and also ideas re planting for shelter on present site of courts etc

20 May 1939 – TH All week preparing report and plans for resumption of tennis courts etc and tree planting

30 May 1939 – TH dug and heeled in native trees

11 July 1939 – TH Planted copper beech at Brooklands

9 August 1939 – Taranaki Herald – Park Committee Meeting – “Brooklands Memorial Plaque. It was noted that a plaque to honour Newton King was ready to erect at Brooklands. Swat Magret. A hearty vote of thanks was recorded Mr. Horton for the donation of a valuable beech known by the name of ‘Swat Magret’ a variety from Holland. This was planted in the meadow at Brooklands.”

10 August 1939 – Planting at Brooklands and fencing

23-25 August 1939 – Planting at Brooklands and in Rhododendrons etc (possible plants: Fagus ‘Riversii’, Fagus ‘Atropurpurea’, Magnolia soulangeana, Quercus palustris)

23 & 24 April 1940 – Men cleaning up and preparing site for extension of Hydrangea planting

6 & 7 May 1940 – Men at Hydrangea extension

15 May 1940 – Park Committee Meeting – Annual Report – “Work authorised and completed was the sealing of the main entrance drive and the parking area, removing of the glasshouses from Brooklands to the ferneries in Pukekura Park, the reforming of Brooklands Road entrance and making of adjacent new footpaths and the planting of young trees on Cannon Hill to eventually fill the gaps of the existing immense pines now showing signs of decline.” “In conformity with their committee’s policy to close the tennis courts and croquet lawns at the Vogelstown entrance in order to provide shelter from the westerlies, a special nursery of trees has been established. The trees will be grown in their present location and especially

attended to for probably another four years before being planted out along the Brooklands Road western boundary of the park." "Fillis Street Botanical Reserve – the planting of this reserve was started in 1935 and completed last year. The area comprises approximately four acres and is set apart as a botanical reserve for native trees and plants. Here we have planted of less than two each of all native trees, but the collection does not include alpine, rockery and bay plants. There are about 1200 trees and over 200 varieties. These trees are doing well. Cultivation has now ceased. When these trees have sufficiently developed it is proposed to make suitable paths through them to give easy access to every part, and also to attach name plates to all the trees." "Brooklands Reserve – The area is approximately 10 acres. The total number of trees, planted is 3815. The varieties include all the principal native timber trees. The matai are not doing as well as most of the other kinds. The totara, rimu, Hinau, rewarewa, and kauri are making particularly good growth and also the white pines planted in the swamp areas. In the first area planted the height of the trees ranges from three to nine feet, the average being about four feet six inches." "It is definitely established that the kauri can be grown successfully here, for out of 500 in this reserve we have had scarcely a failure and though only planted three years ago many are six feet high and are very strong and healthy."

15 May 1940 – Taranaki Herald – "Spring flower Display – The flower beds at Brooklands, New Plymouth, have nearly all been replanted for the spring display, stated the monthly report of the Pukekura Park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, to the park committee last night. Flower beds in the park will be prepared similarly now that the summer flowering season is over. There are 26 new varieties of hydrangeas to plant."

21 June 1940 – Dug canna beds and planted *Cyathea medullaris*, started pruning Hydrangeas

2 July 1940 – Preparing area for hydrangeas

23-26 July – George and TH pegged out and prepared for planting hydrangeas, and pruned roses at the house etc. Planted 50 new Hydrangeas

1 August 1940 – Planted about 50 trees to replace failures in the forest area

31 May 1941 – Received donation of 20 *Ericas* from D&D

6 July 1941 – George trimming up islands and took up a lot of *Dicksonia fibrosa*

7 July 1941 – Geo planted out bed of seedling fibrosas

25 August 1941 – Geo and Grant at the Gables transplanting Lawsons

15 June 1942 – Mr Amooore and TH visited Brooklands re tree planting etc

10 July 1942 – Taranaki Herald – Pukekura Park Committee – More Trees In Park – "At a meeting of the Pukekura Park Committee, New Plymouth, last night it was decided to plant trees on an area of the park at the back of Brooklands, between the belt of shelter trees and Kaiamata Street. This area, of about one and a-half acres, was previously let for grazing. The superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, reported that the fences had been repaired and an entrance was being put in."

22 July 1942 – Planted trees at Brooklands

23 July 1942 – Finished off trees at Brooklands

26 Aug. Fine but very cold. few birds. no sun. morning
 List of trees planted 22nd + 23rd at
 Brooklands, Kaimata St.

	Value	Total value
100. <i>Lawsoniana</i> 5 yrs. old	57.0	26. 10. 0
20. "	101-	10. 0
40. <i>Podocarpus totara</i> 5 yrs. old up		8 . .
40. <i>Kowhai</i> 4 yrs. old	2/6	5 . .
		42 0 0
26. <i>Prewa Prewa</i> 3 1/2		3. 6. 0
		45. 6. 0
Trees purchased cost		43. 16. 0
		£ 41 11 0
Cost of labour.		
4 men 1/2 days = 10 days 2/-		10. 10. 0
planting 2 1/2 days 5 mm. 2/-		10. 10. 0
Podder carting		2. 10. 0
		£ 23 10 0
The above all new work.		

21 August 1942 – TH Digging nursery and transplanting various trees etc

28 August 1942 – Evelyn potting up orchids from Mr H.L. Hartog, 248 Fitzherbert avenue, Palmerston North

23 September 1942 – Plants arrived from Ivan Watkins for planting by Kiosk

8 October 1942 – Planting *Aucuba japonica* and annuals

26 May 1943 – Lou and men planting trees in forest area, where necessary to fill up. 125 trees mostly kowhai

1 June 1943 – Lou planting trees in forest area repalceing failures. Box of native plants received from Mr Kitchingham, Erua

15 June 1943 – Taranaki Herald – Pukekura Park Committee Meeting – Clearing And Planting – "The superintendent reported that a thorough clean-up had been made of the newly-planted forest areas at Brooklands, Kaimata Street and the

Fillis Street gully. Where there was room for more trees have been planted, and others replaced. Altogether 2590 trees have been planted this season, including maceo, totara, white pine, native cedars, towai, rewarewa, and kowhai.”

10 May 1944 – Taranaki Herald – TH “We don’t proposed to make any big plantings of trees this winter, said Mr. Horton. Most of the panting will be the replacement of plants that have died or are not growing well. Recent plantings of native trees are doing remarkably well, especially the 600 kauris near Brooklands.”

10 July 1946 – Taranaki Herald – Park Committee Meeting – “Native trees have been planted in the gap made by the felling of trees by the glow worm caves at Pukekura park, New Plymouth, according to the superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, at a meeting of the park committee. The trees included pohutukawas, kowhais, miro and tree ferns, he said.”

16 June 1947 – Taranaki Herald – Rhododendrons Moving – “Block and tackle, sledge and barrows are being used to shift about 85 rhododendrons in the dell at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. The move has been made to give the plants room to spread their branches and grow into specimen trees.” “Moving Day began a fortnight ago and it will be two or more weeks before all the plants are settled in their new home.” “The park superintendent, Mr. T. Horton, explained this morning that when the rhododendrons were planted 10 years ago near the Brooklands boundary they were placed six feet apart. There should have been 12 feet between each plant to give it chance to grow into good trees but there was not enough room in that particular dell.” At the time of planting it was planned to later shift every other plant to a site as near as possible its original planting place. This shift should have been made six years ago, but shortage of staff caused its delay until now.” “Four men are on the job working under the supervision of Mr. Horton and Mr. A.J. Black, a rhododendron specialist who is on the park staff.” Transfer to Brooklands – “The smaller plants have been transferred to the hillside at Brooklands nearby. The fence has been shifted, and soon a bulldozer will make a path down the hill so that visitors can walk easily to the rhododendrons. The bigger rhododendrons have settled in on the flat area where they were at present and a few of them have been placed on a bank. With a background of totara and kowhai trees they will make a lovely picture at blooming time.” “Mr. Black said it was a difficult job to lift a plant weighing half a ton, place it on a sledge, drag it to one of the paths in the dell and then lift it onto a barrow for shifting to its new home, but the men managed it.” “Of the 257 rhododendrons, 60 will be shifted to the Brooklands site and 20 to 25 of the bigger ones will be moved to new places.” “The collection is a valuable asset to this town, and we must not allow it deteriorate, pointed out Mr. Horton. The shift would enable the trees to grow instead of cramped as in the past, and would also mean that visitors could walk among the rhododendrons more easily.”

1 October 1948 – Taranaki Herald – “Behind the excavation for and towards the top of the southern terrace, a large amount of bush has been cut down and replanted with tall growing trees given to the park by the New Plymouth Horticultural Society.” (This was the last part of an article about the design and the site preparation for the Ladies Pavilion).