

New Plymouth Recreation Ground



The story of the creation and development of the
New Plymouth Recreation Ground from 1875 to 1908

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Written and compiled by Alan Metcalfe

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Ron Lambert.

Cover picture—Recreation Ground main lake circa 1885 (Puke Ariki PHO2001-396)

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INTRODUCTION

On Monday 29 May 1876 the New Plymouth Recreation Ground was opened with a ceremonial planting of four trees – an oak for Europe, a radiata pine for America, a Norfolk Island pine for the Pacific and a puriri for New Zealand.

The plantings were done by Jane Carrington – daughter of Frederic Carrington - the surveyor who created the Plymouth Company township in 1841.

The park was created with the passing of the *Botanical Gardens and Recreation Grounds Bill (1875)* by the Taranaki Provincial Council as one of its last actions before it was wound-up in 1875.

The Recreation Ground, at that time, was more in name than in reality, it being merely a tree-less valley – the timber had been milled for building the town - along a small stream filled with gorse, tutu and fern.

Always financially impoverished, the park committee – a selection of New Plymouth's well-regarded businessmen and local identities - soon began the process of improvement, enthusiastically supported by benefactors and other residents of the town.

It was only in 1908 that 'The Rec' became Pukekura Park on the suggestion of Mr. S. Percy Smith, the former Surveyor-General and founder of the prestigious Polynesian Society.

Alan Metcalfe's text covers – year by year - the period from the establishment of the park to its naming as Pukekura. In addition, Alan has selected articles from local newspapers which provide a more detailed contemporary description of important events. The text and articles will, undoubtedly, prove to be of singular use to future researchers and those interested in the park's history.

Alan has recorded the incredible array of New Plymouth citizens who have selflessly contributed to enhancing 'The Rec' as members of the committee or by donating, at times, rather eccentric features.

Here, then, you will read of the presentation of The Poet's Bridge and the bizarre Boxthorn maze, the creation of the main lake and the establishment of the iconic sportsground and its terraces from a knee-deep swamp.

You will also read of the various early curators and their individual contributions, of the amazingly successful Floral Fetes and of the vineyard planted by a German immigrant family.

This, then, is a record of the early history of Pukekura Park, the unique botanical amalgam which has become a special place in the hearts of Taranaki people – truly a park for all people.

Ron Lambert

PREFACE

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

Once I 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.

Being a member of the Friends of the Park there are many informative articles in their magazines. Another great source of information is “Pukekura – A Centennial History of Pukekura Park and Brooklands” by A. B. Scanlan. Then I was introduced to *Papers Past*, a fabulous source of information. This gave more depth to the stories that I had read in other material. Over the past two years I have amassed several thousand articles from this source. I must also mention Ian Hutchinson, Botanical Records Officer at Pukekura Park. Ian has a wealth of information about the park and has been most helpful to me on my journey of discovery. This document is mainly based on articles in *Papers Past* and hopefully factual.

So I decided that, having spent many hundreds of hours doing the research I may as well collate the information. This only covers the history of the park while it was called the Recreation Ground, from 1875 – 1908, which was the period when the bones of the park were formed. The next hundred plus years was fine tuning.

Each year there is an overview of events for the year, summary of significant events, a selection of newspaper articles and some photos where I feel they add to the story. There is only a selection of newspaper articles, as there are far too many to publish them all. Most of the available Recreation Ground Board minutes of meetings are included. There are adverts for some of the fundraising events and newspaper reports of some of the events. These reports give an insight into the sort of things people did for amusement in the 19th Century.

The majority of the newspaper clips are from the *Taranaki Herald (TH)* and a few from the *Taranaki Daily News (TDN)*.

Note, If the reader compares my information with that of Scanlan, there may be some discrepancies. With digital searching, these days historical information is much easier to access than back in 1978.

Throughout this document there are pictures taken from the *Auckland Weekly News*, these are not necessarily important for the events they cover but they show what the park looked like on a particular day. This can help when trying to date other photos.

Alan Metcalfe

Units of Measurement

Weight

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

1 lb = 0.454 kg

Length

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

1 ft = 304.8mm

3 ft - 6in = 3' - 6"

yd (yard) 1 yard = 3 ft

chain

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

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

Volume

Yards = cubic yards

1 cubic yard = 0.765 m³

Area (land)

A R P (acres, roods and perches)

1 acre = 4046.86 m²

1 acre = 4 roods

1 rood = 40 perches

Money

£ s d (pounds shillings and pence)

1 pound = 20 shillings

1 shilling = 12 pence



Recreation Ground Land Details

Recreation Ground Land Details

The map on the previous page shows the makeup of the Recreation Ground as far as the original southern boundary, which was the northern edge of Holsworthy Road. The turquoise line is the modern- day boundary of the park.

Town sections with white numbers represent the original whole sections granted in the Taranaki Botanical Garden Act 1876. Two sections originally granted which do not appear on this map, 1047 and 1048 are where the model train is situated on Gilbert Street.

Section with numbers, where 2 digits are white, and 2 digits are yellow indicates a part section.

Sections with yellow numbers were purchased later.

As well as numbered town sections the Board was also given areas marked "L" and "X" and part of "M" plus the areas of the streets within the boundary. These are all detailed in the Taranaki Botanical Garden Act 1876.

Other sections, such as 1182, which are outside of the current boundary were part of the original quota but were released usually as part of a land swap.

Changes to the Recreation Ground area. Purchases, swaps and donations:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1876 | Section 1172 purchased for £62 14s from Mr Stephenson. |
| 1876 | Section 1175 purchased for £50 from Mr Hammerton. |
| 1886 | Section 1086 purchased for £40 from Mr Dorsett. |
| 1891 | Sections 1107, 1108, 1127 and 1128 also part sections 1106, 1109, 1126 and 1129 purchased for £125 from Mrs Harriet Fookes. This block of land was originally known as Maori Reserve No 12. |
| 1893 | Section 1084 purchased for £25 plus a piece of land. Bought from Mr Dingle. The piece of land exchanged was possibly section 1064. |
| 1894 | Section 1135 purchased for £16 16s from Reginald Bayley. |
| 1899 | 1182 transferred to Jockey Club as part of a land swap for the 3.5 acres below. |
| 1901 | 3.5 acre block of land to the east of the Serpentine was transferred to the Recreation Ground from the Jockey Club. This area is Section D part 4 Sub1 - 3.2.0. |

LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS

1875—1908

Thomas King

Harris Ford

Robert Clinton Hughes

Isaac Broad

John Gilmour

James Thomas Davis

Robert Joseph Collins

Thomas Colson

Reginald Bayley

R. H. Thompson

James Davidson

Doctor Gibbes

T. K. Skinner

J. B. Roy

F. P. Corkill

Richard Cock

C. W. Govett

W. L. Newman

S. Percy Smith

E. H. Tribe (Secretary/ Treasurer)

Borough Council Reps from 1904 –1908

W. A. Collis

Carter

E. Dockrill (Mayor)

C. H. Burgess

D. Hutchen

F. Bellringer

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1875

This is where the story begins. Robert Clinton Hughes a young lawyer had just been voted onto the Taranaki Provincial Council. Hughes was asked by his friend Peter Elliot, to table a question relating to the availability of land for recreational use at the council sitting of January 1875.

In reply Thomas Kelly (Provincial Secretary) said there was an area referred to as the Botanic Gardens. This area had been identified by Frederic Alonzo Carrington on his original survey of the town. The site is next to the Te Henui Stream adjacent to Puketarata Pa.

Things went quiet for a few months; however, some residents were making noises. James Davis, later the funder of The Poet's Bridge in his speech on the opening day of the bridge was reported to have said that when he arrived in New Plymouth, he saw that the great want of the town was a public pleasure gardens, and he at once commenced to agitate the question. Also, sometime during May or June a petition signed by 112 prominent residents, calling for a recreation area, had been presented to the Provincial Council. In the petition, the signatories vowed to look after any land given. It may well have been James Davis who initiated the petition.

Kelly had been extremely busy. He was a key player in setting up the inaugural Harbour Board and securing funding for its development. There had been a lot of talk about abolishing the system of Provincial Government and the sitting in June was possibly going to be the last chance to pass legislation. However, he did have another project that he was working on, which was to find a suitable location for an asylum. He had settled on the site known as Fort Herbert which lies on the hill behind the current east stand at the Sports Ground. At that time, the Pukekura valley was devoid of trees and he would have had a good view across it. He was aware that the valley had little commercial value and considered that it may lend itself to a recreation area. At the time most of the land belonged to the Education Board. Kelly wrote to Fred Carrington, who was the Superintendent at the time, laying out his vision (*TH, JUNE 26, 1875*).

Once Kelly got the green light, he went about writing The Botanical Garden and Public Recreation Grounds Bill, 1875. This vested approximately 39 acres of land for recreational purposes and was to be run by the Town Board. He ran this by the Town Board but unfortunately, they did not want the ratepayers to have to carry the financial burden of developing and maintaining such a recreation ground. This all happened the day before the Provincial Council was due to be prorogued. Kelly, disappointed with the Town Council was ready to drop the bill. Hughes on the other hand was keen to salvage it and suggested that the reserve could be run by a board of trustees. Kelly agreed to this if by the next morning Hughes could find seven people to act as trustees. Hughes did this, the bill was amended and went through all its stages and was passed during the last sitting of the Provincial Council on June 30, 1875. Even though the bill passed through the Provincial Council it still had to be approved by the Governor. The bill did not get the Governor's approval and it was not until September 1876 that the Taranaki Botanic Garden Act 1876 passed through parliament.

A list of board members was published in the *TH* on July 31, 1875. The names being: - Thomas King, Harris Ford, Robert Clinton Hughes, Isaac Broad, John Gilmour, James Thomas Davis, and Robert Joseph Collins.

The first board meeting was held on Friday, September 30, 1875, at which it was agreed to meet the following Tuesday as a group to survey the land they had been granted, which was now estimated to be 47 acres. It was also agreed that the first work to be undertaken would be to erect a boundary fence.

The Board met as planned along with Arthur Standish to survey the task ahead. The next morning Hughes and Davis started to peg out the first path (Hughes Walk). There was a stream running through the park and the idea was to run a path along the west side of the stream and have a second

path at right angles up to the racecourse. Even though Hughes and Davis were eager to see progress work on the paths did not start until 1876. To establish a good layout for the Recreation Ground the board ran a competition, offering a £5 prize for the best plan. Reginald Bayley was the winner.

Laying out paths etc is a job for a surveyor and the board was fortunate that Thomas Kingwell Skinner offered his services, gratis. He spent many hours with his chain man over a period of 30 years laying out different aspects of the Recreation Grounds.

The first actual development in the Recreation Ground was the planting of a vineyard by Heinrich Breidecker. He was granted the lease of an acre of land behind the racecourse in what is now Stainton Dell. The vineyard was not successful and was abandoned a few years later. Breidecker moved to Hokianga where he did establish a successful vineyard.

Summary of significant events

Robert Clinton Hughes tables the question “Is there any land available for recreation?” at Provincial Council meeting.

- A petition asking for recreation land signed by 112 prominent local residents is presented to the Provincial Council.
- Thomas Kelly, Provincial Secretary, identifies land to be set aside for recreation area and town water supply.
- Kelly introduces legislation to create a recreation area and to be controlled by the Town Board.
- The Town Board rejects the proposal, they do not want to burden ratepayers.
- Kelly modifies bill to place the Recreation Grounds under the control of a board of trustees.
- The bill passes and is last piece of legislation of the Provincial Council.
- The members of the Board of Trustees are named.
- A premium of £5 offered for the best design for laying out the grounds.
- Mr Reginald Bayley’s design for the layout of the Recreation Grounds is accepted.
- The Board agree to lease one acre of land to Mr Breidecker for a vineyard.
- The Board unsuccessfully try to get control of sections 1065 and 1084 to enable good access from Carrington Road (now Victoria Road).
- Isaac Broad leaves the Board due to lack of attendance and is replaced by Thomas Colson.

PUBLIC RECREATION GROUND.

In reply to Mr. Hughes' question whether the Government had at its disposal any land in or near New Plymouth that could be used as a recreation ground.—Mr. KELLY said the only land the Government had at its disposal was that at the back of the cemetery, known as the "Botanical Garden." Many of the reserves around the town were made over to the Education Board, and the only way to get this land from them would be to offer the tract. The difficulty was to obtain funds just at a time when every penny of money was required for opening up roads and settling immigrants.—Mr. DUNN thought the Government might purchase the unoccupied lands of the reserves, which was to be put up by auction shortly, and make it over to the Town Board, who could deal with the matter as they thought fit.—Mr. KEENE thought the suggestion of the hon. member a good one, and the Government would make enquiry into a legal objection pointed out by his colleague, and endeavour to meet the wishes of the Council.

TH, JUNE 19, 1875
CHANGE OF LAND USAGE

The present sitting of Council was specially called to report the progress of works authorized at the last sitting, and to finish off the business left undischarged when the Council adjourned. It appears that advantage is taken of it, by means of Ordinances of the Superintendent and Council, to settle some matters which it is prudent should be settled before the Province expires. This more especially applies to dealings with reserves that have been granted in trust to the Superintendent for various public purposes, and which it is desirable should be diverted to other public purposes. The Toranaki Agricultural Society Trust Bill is of this class. This Bill takes the St. Germain Square out of the trust under which it is now held as a public square, and makes it available for the Agricultural Society's yards; a change which the public generally will recognize as a very proper one. The land lying between the Carrington Road and the race-course, at present held for educational purposes, is about to be changed for purposes of public recreation grounds and water supply, and a portion set aside as the site of a lunatic asylum. The want of a piece of suitable ground for public recreation, near the town, is very much felt, and this act on the part of the Government will supply the want. The management of this land is to be vested in the Town Board. This is done, we suppose, so as to avoid the creation of an additional Board, of which there are quite sufficient at the present moment without the addition of another. But there may be differences of opinion whether the Board is the best managing body to undertake this duty of beautifying the grounds and providing suitably for the recreation of the public. But it has the advantage of being an elected body, and therefore not so likely to be get fossilized, as is too often apparent in municipal bodies. If the Board will materialize the duty and perform it with only ordinary zeal,

it will do more good of the public. By placing this land in the hands of the Board the water supply is secured, and that in itself will be a great local advantage, which will be the more valued as the town increases in size and the pressing want of a supply of water is more felt than it is at the present time.

TH, JUNE 26, 1875
KELLY'S LETTER TO CARRINGTON

RECREATION GROUND AND WATER SUPPLY.

The following letter from Mr. T. Kelly to his Honor the Superintendent, relative to reserving land for recreation ground and water supply, has been laid on the table of the Council:—

New Plymouth, June 8, 1875.

SIR,—In looking for a suitable piece of public land within a convenient distance from the town for the site and grounds of a Lunatic Asylum, the fact forced itself on my notice that in the immediate vicinity of the site I have selected, and which I submit for your approval—viz. Mount Harbert—that the interest of the whole community would be well consulted by making the balance of the reserve in the vicinity, by Ordinance of the Provincial Council, an endowment for public recreation grounds. The stream of water which flows through the reserve might be impounded and utilized for the ornamentation of the grounds, for watering the streets of New Plymouth, extinguishing fires, and providing for public baths.

The land to which I refer lies between Carrington Road and the Race-course, and consist of exchanged town sections set apart for educational purposes. The area of this land, including roads which could be closed by Ordinance, is about 35 acres. It has not been a source of much revenue to the Educational Establishment, having only averaged some £15 per year, and is gradually deteriorating in value by the growth of ferns, which successive seasons have failed to eradicate, or even keep down.

The reason of this is that the land is of inferior quality and very broken, rendering it unsuitable for cultivation. But it is admirably adapted by nature for forming recreation grounds, as the scenery is diversified, and winding paths could be made at small costs, and several small sheets of water made by dams of an inexpensive character. Although I propose to direct the purpose of this reserve from education to other public purposes, I do not think it would be desirable to take it without giving to the educational establishment either a money compensation to compensate for the rent lost (£15), or to give, by way of exchange, other provincial lands of equal value; but I think the oppor-

tunity should not be lost for securing to the public of New Plymouth for all time those grounds which are capable of being made very beautiful for recreation purposes, and the other public services which I have named. The land is situated less than half-a-mile from the centre of the town, and if suitable paths and foot-bridges were made it would be at once used by a large section of the public on holidays, and by the various public organizations on special occasions—such as Temperance Fetes, Band of Hope, and the various denominational schools for the children's annual parties. Provisions could be easily made for making it accessible from various parts of the town, such as here the Carrington Road, from Liberty, Green, and Wakefield-streets. While these grounds might be made use of at a small cost to provide rational amusement to the public, the water, while affording a means of beautifying the grounds, could be utilized at a comparatively small cost to furnish a supply for watering the streets, extinguishing fires, and providing for public baths; or even for supplying water for domestic purposes for the present population; but I propose to confine myself to the first-named purpose as more within the means of the provincial treasury. The stream which flows through the reserve takes the drainage of about three hundred acres of land roughly estimated, and therefore the annual rainfall, less that lost by evaporation and other causes, could be impounded and made available for the purposes I have named.

Assuming that 6-10ths of our average annual rainfall could be collected and impounded, this would give a total quantity of 200,000,000 gallons for the twelve months, or a daily supply of about 300 gallons per head on the present population of the town if the whole of the water was impounded and stored up for daily use. The level of the water when dammed back would be sufficiently high to flow to any part of the town not higher than 70 feet above the Hokianga River in Descent-street. And thus an abundant supply of water could be obtained at any time if pipes were laid from the reservoir, to the most densely built portion of the town. Public baths are now getting an urgent necessity, and facilities ought to be given for their promotion, and nothing would tend more to do so than a good and cheap supply of water. The financial part of the question I have for further consideration; all that I have at present to urge is that the land be for ever secured to the public for these necessary public purposes during the present session of the Council.—I have, &c.

T. KELLY.

His Honor the Superintendent.

TH, JUNE 26, 1875

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY—JUNE 23.

A memorial signed by 113 persons, asking for a piece of ground to be set aside for medicinal purposes, was presented.

TH, JUNE 30, 1875
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Council resumed at 2 p.m., and went into Committee on "The Botanic Garden and Public Recreation Grounds Act, 1873." Mr. KELLY stated that the Bill had been delayed in order to allow the Town Board to give an opinion on the question. A letter had been received from the Secretary, conveying certain resolutions which had been passed by that Board on the previous evening, to the effect that the Board had decided to accept the bill, and also that they would undertake the management of the recreation grounds if all the town reserves instead of the Devon Line were also handed over to them. The Government could not agree to hand over the whole of the Town reserves, but that they would be prepared to deal liberally with the Town Board for purposes of recreation. He was surprised that they had refused to take over this valuable reserve. The Government had offered to hand over the land free of charge, build a cottage on it, and also to place a sum of money on the Estimates for the purpose of getting it in order. If the Town Board would not undertake it the Government must get some other body to do so. A memorial, subsequently signed, had been received, asking that a reserve might be set aside for such a purpose, the memorialists undertaking to stand to it without any additional expense to the Province, whereas the Town Board would not undertake it on the very liberal terms offered by the Government.—Mr. STURGEON said he failed to see the necessity of the Government in this matter. The Town Board could not see its way to take this reserve over, as it considered that the outlay would not be worth it to be used for the purpose of keeping it in order. The Government had simply promised to place £200 on the Estimates for clearing and fencing the land, but no mention was made of an annual rate.—A long discussion ensued, when it was decided that as the Town Board could not see its way to take over the reserve, the consideration of the Bill be postponed, to enable the Government to offer it, in order to convey the reserve to a Board of Trustees.

TH, JULY 31, 1875
BOARD APPOINTED



Superintendent's Office,
New Plymouth, July 31, 1875.

IN pursuance and in exercise of the powers and authority in me vested under and by virtue of "The Botanic Garden and Public Recreation Grounds Ordinance, 1873," I do hereby appoint the following gentlemen:—

- Thomas King
Harrie Ford
Robert Gibson Hughes
Isaac Broad
John Gilmore
James Thomas Davis
Robert Joseph Collins

to be the Board of Trustees under the above mentioned Ordinance.

Dated this 31th day of July, 1875.

ARTHUR STANDISH,
Deputy Superintendent.

TH, AUGUST 4, 1875
FIRST BOARD MEETING

RECREATION GROUND BOARD

THE first meeting of this Board was held on Friday evening last, in the Tararaki Institute, when all the members were present.

Election of officers.—Mr. T. King was elected chairman, Mr. J. Gilmore treasurer, and Mr. R. Collins secretary.

Extent of the ground.—Messrs. T. King and R. C. Hughes were deputed to wait upon the Government to ask them to furnish a map of the ground, which by setting forth the position of the streams and general conformation of the ground, would form a basis of operations for the trustees to work upon. The area of the ground was stated to be 47 acres, and is bounded by the Carrington Road to Mr. G. Cotfield's land, thence to the Baccourne, along to Grey-street, and across to the bank of the residence of Mr. G. H. Baccourne.

Ground to be fenced.—It was decided at the meeting that the first work undertaken should be the fencing; and as a practical way of ascertaining the actual requirements and probable cost, the whole of the trustees arranged to meet on Tuesday afternoon, (yesterday) on the ground and make a personal inspection of the property of which they have been elected trustees.

The meeting then terminated.

TH, AUGUST 11, 1875
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A MEETING of this Board was held on Friday evening last, in the Tararaki Institute. Present: Messrs. J. Gilmore, I. Broad, J. T. Davis, R. C. Hughes, and R. J. Collins (secretary). In the absence of the chairman, Mr. Broad was voted to the chair.

Government offer accepted.—On the motion of Mr. HURDLE it was carried, "That the Secretary inform the Government that his offer to build a cottage for a keeper is accepted; and that the Board assent to the proposition that the cottage will be available for the residence of an emigrant family, until it is necessary for the protection of the grounds to have a keeper resident thereon."

Provision for design.—It was moved by Mr. DAVIS and passed, "That all plans be offered for the best design for laying out the recreation ground, with a view to ornamentally planting it."

Conference with the Town Board.—Mr. DAVIS was appointed to confer with the Town Board and Mr. Ford, relative to obtaining the top part of two gullies on the western boundary of the grounds.

Proposed purchase of certain sections.—Mr. GILMORE moved, "That the offer of the Government to purchase certain sections necessary to complete the grounds, be accepted with thanks."—Carried.

Application for surveys ruled.—Mr. HURDLE moved, Mr. DAVIS seconded, and it was carried, "That the Government be informed of Mr. Gilmore's appointment as Treasurer, and request the money to which the Board is entitled may be placed in the Bank of New Zealand."

The meeting then adjourned till Friday, the 20th instant, at 6.30 p.m.

TH, AUGUST 18, 1875
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

THE adjourned meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board took place on Friday evening. Present: Messrs. Ford, Davis, Collins, and Hughes. Mr. Hughes occupied the chair.

Leave of absence granted.—Leave of absence was granted to Mr. T. King.

Proposed Vineyard.—The meeting was called to consider an application from two Germans to lease part of the grounds for a term of twenty-one years, for a vineyard. The applicants were present, as was also Mr. Ford (Government interpreter) who explained to the meeting the applicants' wishes. The following offer was made by the Board:—"That four acres be leased for a vineyard on these conditions: For the first five years free, and if terms are duly fulfilled the Board will grant a lease for the remaining sixteen years, at £30 per year. Lessees to lay out, plant, fence, and keep in good order their four acres; same to be open to the public at all times, except when fruit is ripe, for one month, and then with special permission." The Germans asked for time to consider this offer, which was granted. Should they decide to accept it before the next meeting, they could communicate with the secretary (Mr. R. J. Collins), who was empowered by the Board to agree to it on behalf of the Board, reporting next meeting night.

Laying out the Grounds.—The conditions for design were then discussed, when it was decided that the competitors should send in their plans on the scale of one chain to an inch, with an estimate of earthwork, planting, &c.; the competitors to utilize natural features of ground to the best advantage; the cost of whole not to exceed \$200. Sites of cricket ground and archery lawn, ornamental pond, keeper's cottage, and main entrance will be pointed out on map.

TH, AUGUST 25, 1875
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A MEETING of the Board was held at the Tararaki Institute, on Friday evening last. Present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, J. Gilmore, I. Broad, R. J. Collins, J. T. Davis, and H. Ford. Mr. Hughes was voted to the chair.

Proposed Vineyard.—Mr. DAVIS, who was present, informed the Board that as there was not sufficient ground for two men to work out as a vineyard, one of the applicants had retired, and the remaining one was willing to take up the lease if the Board would reduce the rental to £1 per annum instead of £30, as asked for by the Board.—On the motion of Mr. DAVIS, seconded by Mr. FORD, this was agreed to.—On the motion of Mr. COLLINS, seconded by Mr. GILMORE, it was resolved that the lease clear up lay out and fence in the four acres within two years.

The Board adjourned till Friday, 3rd September, at 6.30 p.m.

TH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1875
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A MEETING of the Recreation Grounds Board took place on Friday evening at the Tarawaki Institute. *Present:* Messrs. Ford, Davis, Gilman, Collins, and Hughes.

Application from German for reduction of area, as part of four acres was not suitable for vines.—On the motion of Mr. COLLINS, seconded by Mr. FORD, it was agreed that the application be accorded to, and that the rental be 25 per annum after five years, area not to exceed two and a half acres. Term to commence on 1st September.

Premises for best design of Ground.—On the motion of Mr. HUGHES, seconded by Mr. COLLINS, the premium for best design of laying out grounds was awarded to Mr. H. Bagley.

The subject of Ground.—A deputation (Messrs Ford and Davis) was appointed to wait on the proper authorities and ascertain from them the extent and terms of existing leases (if any) on the grounds lately transferred by ordinance to the Board.

Orders to be called for clearing Ground.—On the motion of Mr. HUGHES, it was agreed that as soon as the deputation ascertained the extent of leases, the Secretary should advertise for tenders for grubbing, burning, and clearing all ferns on a portion of the grounds.

The meeting adjourned to Friday, the 17th.

TH, SEPTEMBER 22, 1875
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

THE Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday last. *Present:* Messrs. Hughes, Ford, Collins, and Davis.

Existing Leases of Ground.—The deputation appointed reported that the only existing lease was Mr. Rowe's, for a term of seven years from 4th April, 1874, at 5s. 6d per year, on that part of the ground west of the stream under the old Carrington-road Blackhouse; also that Mr. Scott has two sections as a yearly tenant, at 10s. per year from March 1st.

After some correspondence was read, the Board adjourned.

TH, OCTOBER 13, 1875
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

THE Board met on Friday last. *Present:* Messrs. R. C. Hughes (in the chair), H. Ford, J. Gilman, R. J. Collins, and J. T. Davis.

Orders for clearing.—The sub-committee (Messrs. Ford and Collins) appointed at last meeting to open and receive tenders, reported that they had received five tenders, and had accepted Messrs. Nevell and Jones', at 45s.

Mr. Rowe's offer to sell right of lease, refused.—It was resolved that Mr. Rowe's offer to sell the right of his lease be not accepted, and that the Secretary give notice to Mr. Rowe to burn and clear the ferns on the ground under lease to him, in accordance with the terms of his lease.

Two sections on the Carrington Road required.—It was moved by Mr. COLLINS, seconded by Mr. DAVIS, and carried—"That the Government be requested to lay out to the Board the two sections at the foot of Carrington Road, to enable the Board to have a main entrance from Carrington Road to the grounds, and that Mr. Hughes wait upon the Government and represent the matter."

The Acclimatization Society.—Mr. FORD moved, Mr. COLLINS seconded, and it was agreed—"That Mr. Hughes wait upon the Secretary of the Acclimatization Society, to hear the proposition the Society has to make for the use of a portion of the grounds, and report next meeting night."

After some minor matters had been disposed of, the Board adjourned to Friday, the 22nd October.

TH, OCTOBER 27, 1875
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

THE Board met on Friday evening last. *Present:* Messrs. T. King (chairman), R. C. Hughes, R. J. Collins, and J. T. Davis.

Exchange of Sections.—Mr. HUGHES reported that on consultation of the various books of the Public Trust Board, he found that Mr. Rowe had exchanged section No. 1010 at the foot of Carrington Road for section Nos. 1023 and 1018 at the west end of Poverty Flat.

Cattle wandering on the Grounds.—Several complaints having been made about cattle running loose on the grounds, doing damage to the property of persons living near, Mr. HUGHES moved, Mr. DAVIS seconded, and it was agreed to—"That notice be sent to Mr. Scott to keep his cattle off the grounds, or they will be impounded."

Fencing in Recreation Grounds.—Mr. HUGHES moved, Mr. COLLINS seconded, and it was carried—"That as soon as a tracing of the boundary can be obtained, tenders for a ditch and bank fence be advertised for."

The Board then adjourned till Friday, 3rd November, at 7 min.

TH, NOVEMBER 24, 1875
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

THE Board met at the Tarawaki Institute, at 7 p.m. on Friday last. *Present:* Messrs. Gilman, Davis, Collins, and Hughes. Mr. R. C. Hughes in the chair.

Proposal surrender of late Mr. Rowe's lease.—Correspondence received and read from Mr. T. Colson as trustee of the late Richard Rowe, offering to surrender lease on payment for fencing being made.—Moved by Mr. GILMAN and seconded by Mr. COLLINS and agreed to, "That Mr. Colson's offer to surrender lease on fair value being allowed for fence be accepted, provided the necessary funds can be obtained, and that half the cost of clearing ferns on ground under lease be borne by Mr. Rowe's representatives, exchange of sections confirmed."

Resolutions of a new Trustee.—The SECRETARY was instructed to notify to his Honor the Superintendent that the seat held by Mr. Broad had become vacant, that member having absented himself from three consecutive meetings of the Board without leave, and that his Honor be requested to appoint another gentleman for the vacant seat, for which the Board would respectfully submit the name of Mr. Thomas Colson.

An advance of money required.—The CHAIRMAN was requested to interview the Government relative to an advance of money being made to enable the Board to carry out its works.

After which some minor matters were disposed of and the Board adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

TH, DECEMBER 8, 1875
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

THE Board met on Friday evening last, at 7 o'clock, at the Tarawaki Institute, when there were present—Messrs. T. King (chairman), R. C. Hughes, R. J. Collins, J. Gilman, H. Ford, and J. T. Davis.—Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed.—Secretary handed in eight tenders for ditch and bank fence—opened and read—ranging from 2s. to 15s.

Moved by Mr. DAVIS, seconded by Mr. FORD, and carried, "That Haggitt and Co.'s tender, at 15s. per chain, be accepted."—On motion of Mr. FORD, seconded by Mr. HUGHES, it was resolved, "That the secretary make an official application to his Honor the Superintendent for the execution plan of the grounds, the Board having been put to great inconvenience through the delay in obtaining it."

—Mr. Hughes reported that he had made arrangements, subject to approval of the Board, with Mr. Catfield, to erect a dividing fence between the two sections of pine (pine and oak), which, on motion of Mr. FORD, was approved of.—On the motion of Mr. HUGHES, seconded by Mr. COLLINS, it was agreed "That application be made to Chairman of Educational Board for two sections at foot of Carrington Road."

—Letter received, and read, from Mr. Gilbert offering to rent piece of land bounded by Carrington Road, Brooklands, and Poverty Road, at 15s. per acre per annum. Mr. COLLINS moved, and Mr. GILMAN seconded, and it was carried, "That Mr. Gilbert be allowed to occupy it at the will of the Board, to keep the fence in good repair, and clear the whole of the ground, reserving to the Board the right to plant trees on it."

On motion of Mr. HUGHES, seconded by Mr. FORD, it was resolved to call the tenders for dividing fence between grounds and Mr. Catfield.—Adjourned at 8:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, 17th.



Robert Clinton Hughes 1847—1935 (Puke Ariki PHO2007 - 018)

A lawyer by profession and a staunch advocate for a recreation ground Hughes was an original Board member remaining on the Board for almost 60 years.

He was a strong swimmer and it is said that on occasions when the sea was too rough for ships to land the mail Hughes would swim out and bring it back to shore. He often featured in the accounts of swimming galas, his most successful event was the long dive.

A leading member of the member of the Temperance Movement in the region Hughes was a member of the Temperance Alliance and the Band of Hope.

Amongst other talents he spoke several languages and played the violin.

1876

The Recreation Ground Board started the year by organising the clearing of parts of the reserve, building fences and cutting paths. The land was swampy, had few trees on it, and was covered in gorse (furze), ferns, and tutu. The plan was to have the main entrance at the northwest corner of the grounds onto Carrington Road (now Victoria Road) and run a path along the western bank of the stream down to Brooklands. From this path to have a second at right angles across the valley past the vineyard, exiting at the racecourse. Unfortunately, the Board did not own two sections (1084 and 1065), making it difficult to proceed with the main entrance at that location. A decision was made to move the main entrance to Liardet Street, which was a slightly better option, but still not ideal.

When seeking access across sections 1084 and 1065 the Board's request was denied because this land was earmarked as the start of a road planned to run through the Recreation Ground. This news came as a shock to the Board who immediately started protesting. Eventually this matter was resolved, and the road never proceeded.

The opening date was set. The ceremony was to be held around a mound (Cannon Hill) and the first paths would have been from the Liardet Street entrance around the mound.

During the opening day ceremony four trees were planted around the mound by Miss Jane Carrington, eldest daughter of Fred Carrington. On the east side an oak representing Britain, on the north a puriri representing NZ, on the west, a Norfolk Island pine representing the South Pacific Islands, and on the south, a *Pinus insignis*, representing America. The spade used by Miss Carrington can be found in Puke Ariki Museum. Following the official planting other folk were invited to plant trees. A rimu was planted by Mrs M. A. Hughes, a yew by Mrs T. K. Skinner, a Norfolk Island pine by Thomas Colson, and a puriri by Mr R. Hughes. James Mitchinson of Egmont Nursery donated many young trees for the public to plant. Land had been prepared for this to the south of the path between Cannon Hill and Fountain Lake. Some of these trees may still exist today. An account of the opening day's ceremony was published in the *TH*, May 31, 1876.

The original parliamentary bill of 1875 drafted to set up the Recreation Ground had some issues, and the Governor never signed it off, but after a few modifications the Taranaki Botanic Garden Act 1876 finally passed in September 1876 allocating almost 49 acres of land to the Board of Trustees. The land was made up of a combination of town sections, parts of roads and part of the original green belt that Carrington set out. Within the boundary of the park there were a few town sections that were privately owned, and the Board purchased these when they were able to do so. Sections 1172 and 1175, both of which had cottages, were purchased in 1876.

Charles Carnell was employed as custodian, he worked two days a week. Carnell lived in a property adjoining to Recreation Ground where the Band Room stands today at the Rogan Street car park. At that time Carnell's house was on Wakefield Street. One of his duties was to impound cattle wandering into the grounds.

Throughout the history of the park there has always been controversy about the selection of plants. In the early days planting was very much dependant on what was donated. The Board was always struggling financially and would accept any plant donations. In 1876 the Board received two thousand plants from Christchurch Domain which had a major impact on the diversity of plants in the Recreation Ground.

Summary of significant events

- Survey of boundary completed.
- Board told sections 1065 & 1084 were not available.
- Furze cutting tender accepted.
- Work commenced on ditch and bank fencing.
- Pegging out of path commenced
- Charles Tapp's tender for constructing footpaths was accepted.
- Decision made to make entrance at Liardet Street.
- First pathway formed, probably from Liardet St Entrance to Cannon Hill.
- May 29th, formal opening took place centred around Cannon Hill.
- Taranaki Botanic Garden Act 1876 read for first time in House.
- Taranaki Botanic Garden Act 1876 finally passes in House.
- Two thousand shrubs received from Canterbury Domain.
- Boundary fence between Recreation Ground and Brooklands completed.
- Charles Carnell employed for two days a week as custodian.
- Sections 1172 and 1175 (including cottages) purchased.

TH, FEBRUARY 26, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Tuesday evening last. Present: Messrs. T. King (chairman), J. T. Davis, T. Colson, J. Gilman, H. Ford, R. C. Hughes, and H. J. Collins.—The Secretary reported the fencing had been delayed on account of the carpenter being unable to attend to work on the boundaries through want of work on hand. It had since been done, and only awaited for the men to commence work.—The Secretary was instructed to obtain sixty-five party posts and two hundred and sixty feet of pine rails, and employ labor to erect fence.—Mr. H. J. Collins reported that Mr. Stephenson was agreeable to sell house and section, and it was agreed that provision to purchasing same that Messrs. Ford and Gilman should see the house and report as to its state next meeting.—On the motion of Mr. Gilman it was agreed that tenders for cutting the fern on that portion of the ground that was under lease to Mr. Howe be called for.—On the motion of Mr. Collins, it was resolved that the valuation of the fencing by Messrs. Gilbert and Key be accepted and settled as soon as the half-cost of clearing fern be ascertained.—Business for next meeting will be the consideration of making main pathway through grounds.—On motion of Mr. Collins, the Board adjourned to Friday, the 18th proximo.

TH, MARCH 8, 1876
RECREATION GROUND UPDATE

The Recreation Grounds.—The Board appointed by the Government to take charge of the reserve set aside as a recreation ground has not been idle during the past twelve months, and now the land has been surveyed, and preparing to put the grounds into some shape. A plan having been prepared, it is the intention of the committee to commence shortly in carrying it out, and at the next meeting of the Board the matter will be brought forward. The main entrance it is proposed to have just past the old Brewery on the Carrington Road, and a path will be made along the banks of the stream to the lake near the boundary of Cottrell's farm, near which another entrance gate will be found. Another path will branch off at right angles towards the Dismal, passing close to the river, and from which an extensive view of country and sea may be obtained. Efforts will be made by the Secretary (Mr. H. J. Collins) to obtain heavy shade and young trees for planting out in the cooling screen. When once the paths are cut, the grounds will become a favorable resort. Some view the grounds are getting attractive.

TH, MARCH 11, 1876
PUBLIC TRUST BOARD
ROAD THROUGH RECREATION
GROUND

Recreation Board.—Application from the Secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board was read, asking the trustees of Public Reserves to surrender sections 1083 and 1084 so that a front entrance to the grounds might be made. The trustees instructed the Secretary to write to the Recreation Grounds Board and to state that they declined surrendering the sections asked for.

Road through the Recreation Ground.—During the consideration of the above matter Mr. Watson enquired of his Honor when the Carrington Road division through the Recreation Ground was likely to be commenced, and whether he could not set the prisoners to work on it. It was intimated to the Board that the prisoners had been provided to the Town Road for a certain time, work having been done for the Trustees in return for the labor.—Mr. STURGE wanted to know the value of the work done, and ascertained that the Superintendent be requested to obtain from the gaoler the number of day's work done by the prisoners for the Town Road since the 1st January, 1875, to the present time.—Mr. Vignoles seconded the resolution, which was carried.

TH, MARCH 15, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met at the Tercental Institute on Friday evening. Present: Messrs. Hughes, Ford, Davis, and Collins.

Seven tenders for setting three received and opened—two at £15; one at £14 10s; first at £10; one at £9; and one at £8. On motion of Mr. Davis, it was resolved that Mr. G. Road's tender, at £8, be accepted.—Secretary reported that the contractors for ditch and bank fencing had commenced work, when it was resolved that Messrs. Ford and Colson inspect the same, and see that it is according to specification.—On motion of Mr. Collins Mr. Hume was appointed to walk on Secretary Public Reserves Trust, and obtain either lease of, or right of way through sections Nos. 1083 and 1084.—On motion of Mr. Ford, the Board adjourned to Friday next.—Consideration of making Southgate deferred, as the whole of the Board was not present.

TH, MARCH 29, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Friday evening last. Present: Messrs. Hughes, Ford, Davis, Colson, Gilman, and Collins.—Minutes read and confirmed.—Secretary read letter from Secretary Public Reserves Trust stating that sections 1083 and 1084 were required to form part of a road up the valley projected and surveyed 4th January, 1877.—Mr. Hughes reported waiting on Secretary Public Reserves Trust, and was informed that it was the intention of the Board to urge on the Government the carrying of a road through the grounds. Motion made by Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Gilman, and carried, "That this Board protest against the action of the Board of Trustees for Public Reserves in urging on the Government the making of a road through the Recreation Grounds, the said grounds having been handed over by Ordinance without any such reservation being made therein."—Mr. Hughes was instructed to purchase the lease offered by Mr. Stephenson.—Mr. Colson and Mr. Ford reported that an improvement might be made by cutting away and placing them on the inside of the ditch and bank fence. The matter was left in the hands of Mr. Colson.—Mr. Collins moved, Mr. Gilman seconded, and it was agreed to, "That a pathway be constructed on the west side of the stream parallel with Carrington Road, with a main entrance from Market-street.—On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Gilman, and carried, "That the Secretary write to Secretary of the Wellington Detached Gardens for any shade, &c., that he may have to dispose of.—Adjourned to Friday, the 7th April.

TH, APRIL 12, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday evening last. Present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, Davis, Colson, Gilman, and Collins. Mr. Hughes was voted to be the chair.—Leave of absence granted to Mr. King.—It was decided to peg out the intended pathway at once, and the Secretary was instructed to call for tenders for construction of same.—Messrs. Wyle and Co.'s offer to turf the inside of ditch and bank fence at 3s. per chain was accepted.—Adjourned to Thursday, 20th April.

TH, APRIL 22, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board.—This Board met on Thursday. Present: Messrs. Gilman, Colson, Ford, Hughes, Davis, and Collins. Tenders for the formation of foot-paths were opened and read; Charles Tapp's tender at 3s. 6d. per chain was accepted. A letter from the Superintendent in reference to a road through the grounds was read. Mr. H. Scott's offer to lease two sections at 5d. per year each for twelve years, and the offer from Mr. M. Murphy to lease section 1180 at 4d. per year for twenty-one years was read.—On the motion of Mr. Colson, it was resolved that Mr. Scott be allowed to occupy the two sections at the yearly rental offered, but subject to six months' notice to expire at any time.—Mrs. Moore was allowed part of the ground adjoining the house for garden purposes, reserving to the Board the right of planting trees thereon.—On the motion of Mr. Collins, the creation of terraces and foot bridges was left in Mr. Colson's hands.—Adjourned to Friday, the 10th May.

TH, MAY 6, 1876
PUBLIC TRUSTS BOARD MEETING
ROAD THROUGH RECREATION
GROUND

Road through the Recreation Grounds.—A letter was read from the Secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board, enclosing a resolution passed on the 15th March, as follows:—"Resolved—That the Board protest against the action of the Board of Trustees for Public Reserves, in urging on the Government the making of a road through the Recreation Grounds, the said grounds having been handed over by Ordinance without any such reservation being made." (Signed) H. J. COLLINS, Hon. Secretary.—Mr. BROWN said perhaps they had better pass some resolution respecting the road. He was not aware what Major Atherton's opinion was on the matter, and they might perhaps postpone it till he came.—Mr. GUNNINGS and Mr. STURGE stated that Major Atherton was a strong advocate for the road being made.—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN considered that the entrance to the Recreation Grounds would be improved by the road.—Mr. GUNNINGS said in addition to shortening the distance, it would be a great advantage to the settlers living in that direction if the road was made.—Mr. HURLEN said the Recreation Board was not a properly constituted one, the Ordinance that had been passed had not been assented to by the Governor.—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the land then reverted back to them to deal with.—Mr. BROWN said the Governor had not dissented the ordinance. He did not know the reason why it had not been assented to.—Mr. GUNNINGS asked why the road had not been made?—Mr. BROWN

applied through several weeks.—Mr. HUGHES and he considered that the grounds should be under the control of the Antislavery and Northland Society, and the Recreation Grounds Committee. With regard to the road he would move, "That his Honor the Superintendent be requested to take immediate steps to have the line of road defined and marked out upon the ground from the original section 1844 to the Hillworth Road."—Mr. COCHRAN seconded the resolution, which was carried.

TH, MAY 10, 1876 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

THE Board met on Friday last. Present, Messrs. Hughes, Colson, Davis, and Collins.—Mr. Hughes was called to the chair.—Minutes read and confirmed.—Letter of thanks presented to Mr. T. King.—Correspondence read from the Superintendent as to purchase of loans and notices.—Secretary reported that he had obtained a permit to supply perill plants at 1s. 2d. each, delivered on the ground.—Mr. DAVIS moved, Mr. COLLINS seconded, and it was carried, "That the public be solicited for subscriptions (either in cash or shares), and that subscriptions be to be done up and left with Messrs. Gilman, Ford, and Davis."—On the motion of Mr. DAVIS, seconded by Mr. COLLINS, it was agreed to employ a man for a week to plant trees, &c.—Mr. COLLINS moved, Mr. COCHRAN seconded, and it was carried, "That the Town Board be asked to assist with prisoners in forming a road or pathway to the Recreation Grounds from Market-street."—The Board then adjourned till the 17th Inst.

TH, MAY 17, 1876 ROAD THROUGH RECREATION GROUND

THE ROAD THROUGH THE RECREATION GROUND.—A deputation of members of the Recreation Board, and other gentlemen interested in public grounds, waited upon the Provincial Executive on Saturday last. Three were present, Messrs. T. King, H. C. Hughes, J. V. Davis, H. Ford, J. Gilman, T. K. Harcourt, R. Callaghan, and E. Humphreys. Major Skilton also happened to be present with his Honor the Superintendent and Messrs. Kelly and Standish.—Mr. Hughes explained that after the Recreation Board had decided to set a path through the grounds, action had been taken by the Trusts Board to get the Government to form a road on the line of the proposed path, which, if acted upon, would cause considerable inconvenience and additional expense, besides spoiling arrangements already made for carrying out the work. On the maps and plans supplied by the Government in handing the grounds over to the Board no reference whatever was made to any proposed line of road. The grounds were handed over in their ordinary, to be dealt with by the Board. Accordingly, on a plan of the grounds which had been designed for laying out ornamental paths, no allowance had been made for road and to have been contemplated for years ago. As through some oversight the Act giving power to the Board to deal with the grounds had not received the Governor's assent, the deputation desired to know what course his Honor proposed to take in the matter. It was pointed out by other members of the deputation that as notice had been taken towards forming the road till the Recreation Board had actually had plans prepared, that the saving of distance in the journey to Inglewood would not be more than a quarter of a mile, and that since Skilton Hill had been cut down, and the railway was no more being opened, there was less need

then ever for such a proposed road. It would simply enhance the value of some properties on the line of road. With such considerations as to proposed road it was questionable if the Board would have had anything to do with the Recreation Grounds.—His Honor the Superintendent, in reply, said he knew strong feeling was shown by some parties as to carrying out the road through the Recreation Grounds, but could not say whether it would be done or not. He would give a final answer on Monday. His Honor said he felt quite sure the Bill transacting granting power to the Board to deal with the Grounds, would be passed during next session.

TH, MAY 24, 1876 OPENING DAY NOTICE

PLANTING OF THE FIRST TREE IN THE RECREATION GROUND.—Mr. H. J. Collins, the Hon. Secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board, informs us at a meeting held last evening, it was agreed that the ceremony of planting the first tree in the new grounds should take place on the Queen's Birthday. We believe that Miss Carrington has kindly consented to plant the first tree, after which any lady present who please may have an opportunity of planting one likewise. Particulars respecting the ceremony will appear in our next issue.

TH, MAY 24, 1876 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

THE Board met on Friday evening last. Present—Messrs. H. C. Hughes (in the chair), Davis, Gilman, Collins, and Colson.—The CHAIRMAN reported that Mr. Woods, acting for Mr. Stephenson, had accepted offer of Board in purchase lease and section for sum of £200.—Mr. COCHRAN moved, and Mr. COLLINS seconded, "That two loads of katechou may be obtained." Carried.—Mr. DAVIS moved and Mr. COLLINS seconded, "That a piece of ground be prepared for planting flowering shrubs." Carried.—Mr. COLLINS reported that the pathway was completed.—On motion of Mr. GILMAN, seconded by Mr. COLLINS, it was carried, "That the first tree be publicly planted on the Queen's Birthday, and that Mrs. Carrington be invited to perform the ceremony."—Board adjourned on Friday, 2nd June, 1876.

TH, MAY 31, 1876 OPENING DAY

PLANTING THE FIRST TREE IN THE RECREATION GROUND.

A VERY interesting ceremony was gone through on Monday last, namely, the planting of the first tree in the Recreation Ground. It has been known for some time past that the gentlemen who were appointed as trustees for the grounds had been busily engaged in having portions of it fenced and paths made. They have now commenced planting it with trees, which in a few years will make the place very ornamental, and at the same time afford shelter from the sun's rays to those who visit the grounds. Monday was one of the most beautiful days we have had this season, and shortly after two o'clock a large number of persons had congregated on a hill just facing the entrance, in readiness to see the ceremony of planting the first tree gone through.

His Honor the Superintendent with Miss Carrington and Miss Jessie Carrington were early on the grounds with a number of friends. The Members of the Recreation Board—Mr. T. King, (Chairman), Mr. H. J. Collins, (Secretary), and Messrs. T. Colson, H. Ford, J. V. Davis, J. Gilman, and H. C. Hughes—were also present, and in various ways engaged in managing proceedings.

The Band under the leadership of Mr. W. H. Townsend) was there and played several of their popular pieces. At about half-past two, everything being arranged,

Mr. T. KING (Chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board), addressing his Honor the Superintendent, said it was now upwards of thirty-eight years since Mr. (Miss Carrington), as representative of the New Zealand Company, surveyed and laid out the Town of New Plymouth; and his Honor would as doubt remember that he then set apart land that surrounded the town on broad belts and also made large reserves for recreation purposes. Some time afterwards Governor Fitzroy came down here and disposed of them of these lands, and took from them their recreation grounds. Many years had elapsed since then, but lately it has been through his Honor's means that some grounds had been made, and they had had restored to them a portion of that which had been taken away, by setting apart the land for the recreation grounds. Such being the case, the trustees considered that it was not fitting that his Honor should be present, and take part in the occasion of the planting of the first tree in the grounds.

His Honor F. A. Callaghan said, as Mr. T. King had stated, he had surveyed the town, and when doing so, had set apart land for a wide belt round it. He had, also, laid out a spot for Victoria Park and another for a Botanical Garden; lands reserved for other purposes. These delineations of a native character were, which delivered the Company from acquiring the land, and the belt round the town was taken from them by the act of Governor Fitzroy to compensate actions who had been turned off other land; and, inasmuch as this was the case, he had carefully considered the matter, and thought it only due to the Corporation that some recognition should be made for what had been taken away. He was shortly going to the Assembly, and he would make it his special duty to see that land was reserved there; and if there was no land in the town then he would try to get other lands elsewhere, also in that town, so no inconvenience for such lands as the town had been suffering deprived of. It was a just claim, and he believed it would be heeded. At all events, he would try what he could do. He thought they could make a very pretty place there, and which, he had no doubt, would be visited by a great many, and who would have an opportunity of spending a very pleasant day in walking through the grounds.

His Honor, accompanied by his eldest daughter, were then taken to the spot prepared for the planting of the first tree, which was a British Oak. Here Mr. J. V. Davis presented Miss Carrington with a neatly polished silver spade, on one side of the handle of which was the following inscription:—"To plant the first tree in the Recreation Ground, New Plymouth, May 31, 1876." On the other side was "Presented to Miss Carrington." A large hole had been dug and the tree placed in it, which was held by Mr. T. Colson, while Miss Carrington very gracefully filled some of the earth with the spade and threw it over the roots. Mr. T. Colson then took her to the north side of the reserve, where a Paria, as representing New Zealand, was planted in the same manner. The same ceremony was gone through on the west side, where a Norfolk Island Pine, representing the South Pacific Islands, and on the north side a Pinus Insipida, representing America, were planted. Having performed her planting duties, and declared that the trees were planted, three cheers were called for Miss Carrington, which was heartily responded to. His Honor was then loudly cheered, and after three cheers for the Recreation Ground Board, the ceremony was brought to a conclusion by the band playing the National Anthem.

As it was announced that after the ceremony some would plant trees that choice, the place assumed quite an active appearance and all along the walk might be seen persons in groups busy at work planting different kinds of trees the growth of which we have no doubt will be as carefully watched and cared for as if they were in their own gardens. When the Public Domain, as we may call it, is visited by

their grand-children or great-grand-children, they will be able to point with pride to the trees which then will be of large size, and say they were planted by their ancestors. The ground we understand has been turned over in readiness to receive the contributions of visitors, and now presents quite a garden-like appearance from the number of shrubs and flowering plants brought to the grounds and set by visitors. For the remainder of the week will be employed in the grounds getting ready for the reception of other contributions. There is some talk amongst the Recreation Board Committee of having persons during the week to continue taking up outside plants which they may either set themselves in places pointed out, or which will be taken charge of by the gardeners. We hope there will be a large number of such visitors.

**TH, JUNE 7, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Board met on Friday. Present: Messrs. King (Chairman), Ford, Gilman, Colson, Hughes, Davis, and Collins (Hon. Sec.).—Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed.—Correspondence read from the Superintendent relative to road through Grounds.—Moved by Mr. HUGHES, seconded by Mr. COLLINS, and agreed to, "That a pathway be made from bridge near entrance from Market-street to the Vineyard, and from thence to the stream near Brooklands.—Moved by Mr. HUGHES, seconded by Mr. COLLINS, and carried, "That as the Board require the lease for use of man to look after Grounds, the Secretary be requested to give notice to Mr. Murphy to quit.—Board adjourned on Friday, 6th July.

**TH, JULY 12, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Board met on Friday evening last. Present: Messrs. Ford, Colson, Gilman, Davis, Hughes, and Collins.—Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed.—Correspondence read. Treasurer reported that subscriptions amounted to \$55.—Mr. COLLINS moved, Mr. DAVIS seconded, and it was agreed to, "That the thanks of the Board are due to Mr. Ford and other gentlemen who on Monday requested the seal of the Board for subscriptions; and the Board would invite those gentlemen who have not yet contributed to come forward and do so.—Mr. COLLINS moved, Mr. COLLINS seconded, and it was carried, "That the Board desire to convey their thanks to the nurserymen and landscape gardeners for their extremely liberal contributions of shrubs and plants; and to the Town Board for their gratuitous services on the planting of the first row.—Moved by Mr. DAVIS, seconded by Mr. COLLINS, and agreed to, "That the Acclimatization Society of Toronto be invited to cooperate with the Board in furthering the object contemplated.—On the motion of Mr. COLLINS, the Secretary was requested to call the members for finding rules and labor in meeting dividing fees between grounds and Brooklands.—Meeting adjourned on motion of Mr. HUGHES, on Friday, the 6th August.

**TH, JULY 26, 1876
PARLIAMENT**

THE TARIKAKI BOTANICAL GARDENS BILL has been introduced in the Legislative Council and read a second time. Dr. Pollock in explaining the objects of the Bill, said that in 1873 a Provincial Ordinance was passed with the view of obtaining as this Bill. The Selection

General had, however, taken exception to certain provisions that were in the Ordinance, which had given power to impose certain penalties, &c., and in consequence his Excellency was advised not to assent to the measure. These objections, however, had not been to the principle of that Ordinance. The Bill was subsequently re-committed, when clauses 1 to 4, 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 17, were agreed to, and Clauses 5 and 13 were postponed.

**TH, AUGUST 9, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD**

The Board met on Friday evening last, in the Tararaki Institute. Present: Messrs. Gilman, Davis, Colson, Ford, Hughes, and Collins. Mr. Hughes was voted to the chair.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.—The SECRETARY reported the acceptance of Mr. HUGHES's tender for fencing.—Mr. COLLINS reported the erection of a dividing fence between Mr. HUGHES's and the Grounds.—Several important and necessary works were suggested and discussed, but the carrying of them out had to be deferred for want of funds.—The Board then adjourned to Friday, 15th September.

**TH, AUGUST 16, 1876
IMPROVED ACCESS AT LIARDET
STREET ENTRANCE**

ENTRANCE TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS.—The public are invited to file a plan to the Deputy Superintendent (Mr. W. M. Crossman) for having a cutting made at the far end of Market-street, by which an easy access may now be had to the Recreation Ground.

**TH, AUGUST 16, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

A SPECIAL meeting of this Board was held yesterday afternoon, at 3 o'clock. Present: Messrs. King, Ford, Davis, Gilman, Hughes, and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. R. J. Collins).—A letter from the South Otago Troupe was read, offering to give a benefit performance in aid of the Recreation Grounds funds. It was resolved that the offer should be thankfully accepted.—After consideration of application, it was resolved that Mr. Ford be allowed to cut five acres (more or less) for a term of three years, at 25 per acre, on condition of keeping the ground clean and the trees in good order, reserving to the Board the right to plant trees and make pathways, and on expiration of his term to hand over the ground laid down in grass.—The Board adjourned.

**TH, AUGUST 23, 1876
ANNOUNCEMENT.**

UNDER DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE.



**THE SARAH ORPHAN
VARIETY TROUPE**

WITH OTHER AN
ENTERTAINMENT

OF ALL THE
FUNDS

OF THE
RECREATION GROUND.

ON
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30,

AT THE
OLD FELLOWS HALL.

Tickets may be Reserved at the Cash
Passage.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 13, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Board met on Friday evening last. Present: Messrs. Hughes, Davis, Colson, and Collins. Mr. Hughes was voted to the chair.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.—The SECRETARY reported the receipt of over 2,000 shanks from Canterbury, also that a package of spirit traps, about 200, had been sent to the Canterbury Domain Board. An application from Mr. GILBERT was read, asking to be allowed to plough and take a crop out of that piece of level land adjoining Carrington Road and so on. It was laid down in grass. On the motion of Mr. DAVIS, seconded by Mr. COLLINS, it was carried, "That Mr. GILBERT's offer be accepted."—The Board then adjourned to the first Friday in October.

**TH, OCTOBER 4, 1876
PARLIAMENT**

THE BOTANICAL GARDENS BILL.—Mr. Kelly in a letter to Mr. Stoddish states that the Botanical Gardens Bill, although introduced in the Legislative Council early in the session, has only just finally passed through the House.

**TH, OCTOBER 11, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

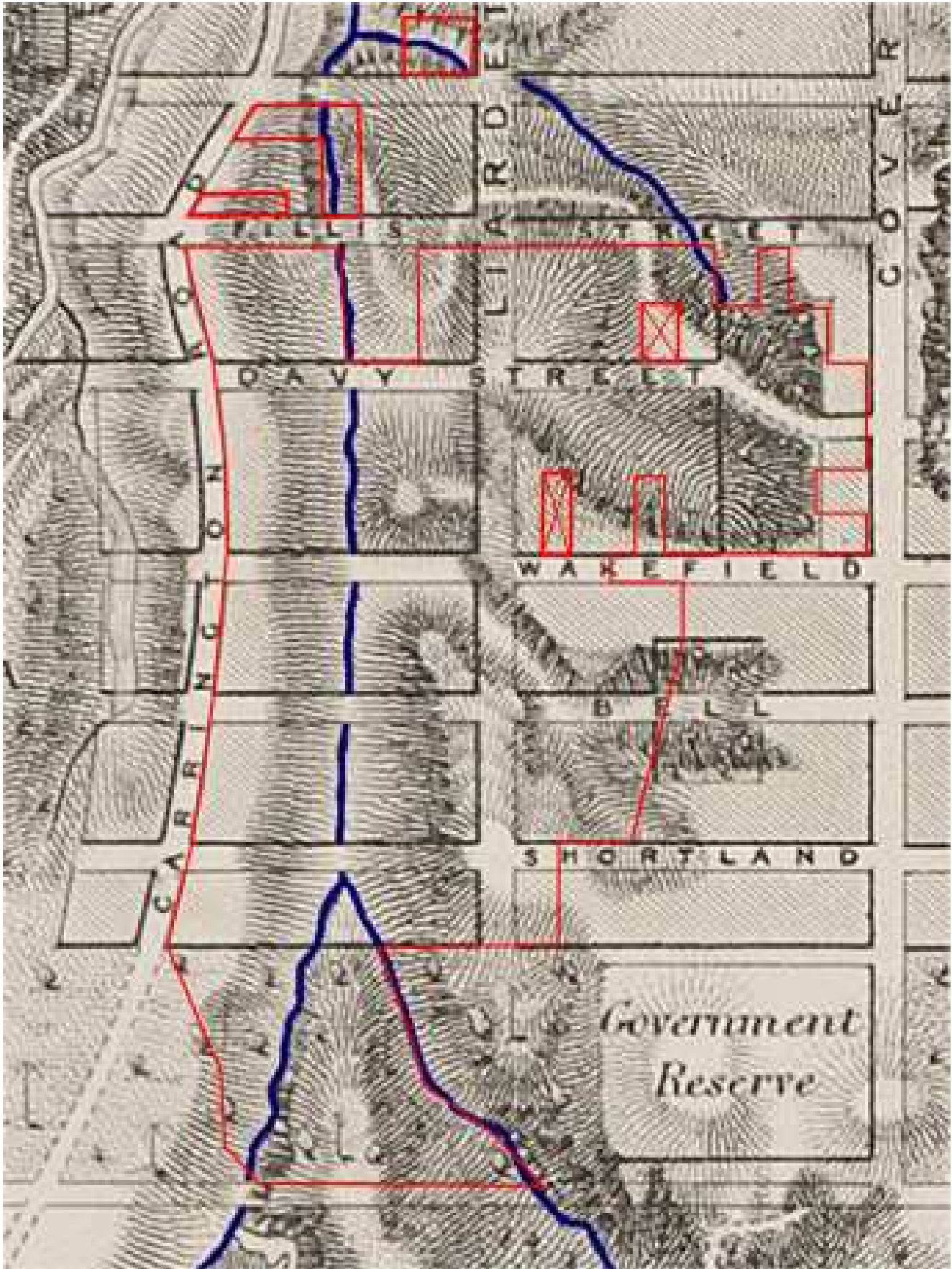
The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday evening, when Messrs. Hughes, Davis, Ford, Colson, and Collins were present. The SECRETARY reported the completion of the dividing fence between the grounds and Brooklands.—Mr. COLLINS reported that the Canterbury donation of shrubs were all set and doing well.—On the motion of Mr. HUGHES it was resolved that an appeal should be made for volunteers to give a half-day's work in cutting down the fern around the growing trees on the 15th November next. The Board then adjourned till Friday, the 3rd November.

**TH, NOVEMBER 22, 1876
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Board met on Friday evening last. Present: Messrs. Ford, Colson, Davis, and Collins. Mr. Ford was called to the chair. The minutes were read and confirmed. On the motion of Mr. COLLINS, seconded by Mr. DAVIS, it was resolved, "That Mr. Charles Cornell (being a resident adjacent to the grounds), be placed in charge thereof, in consideration of his being employed to work thereon for two days a week, and have full power to improve all paths found trespassing thereon, and exercise the usual duties of a custodian." After other minor business had been disposed of, the meeting adjourned.



The original boundary of the Recreation Ground as defined by the Taranaki Botanic Garden Act 1876. Two sections crossed were purchased later. The base map is Carrington's Plan of New Plymouth 1842 (Puke Ariki ARC2004-285).



This is part of Carrington's original relief map of New Plymouth (Puke Ariki ARC2004-287). Superimposed is the area of the Recreation Grounds defined in the Taranaki Botanic Garden Act 1876. This shows what the terrain was like when the trustees first got the land.

1877

This year was all about clearing gorse and making new paths, both were limited due to lack of funds. We see the start of fundraising events which form the core of revenue along with subscriptions and leasing of some sections. Over time the trustees donated a lot of their own money and acted as guarantors for necessary loans.

There was some tree planting done through the year, some of which will have been from the Canterbury donation. A significant addition was two California Big Trees (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), donated by, and probably planted by, James Davis. These trees are still going strong today (2020). One is by the old curator's office on the east side of Sunken Dell and the other is on the east side of the same path leading to the Tea House. The Board during the planting season had also planted parallel with the northern and eastern boundary of the ground *Pinus insignis* (*Pinus radiata*).

Towards the end of the year the construction of the lake was on everyone's mind. The design was completed by Thomas Kelly, and the Board issued tenders for the dam construction. The contract was won by Messrs. Neil, Claffey and Power.

A notable departure from the Board was R. J. Collins, who left New Plymouth to take up a position in the treasury department at Wellington. Collins would go on to become Auditor-General. His replacement was Reginald Bayley. Bayley drew the plans of the Recreation Ground and designed the dam's under-sluice.

Summary of significant events

- Captain R. J. Collins left the Board to take up a position with the Government in Wellington. Reginald Bayley was appointed in his place.
- Request for Prison labour to Borough Council.
- Fire in the Recreation Grounds.
- J. T. Davis donates *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (still in the park 2020).
- Damage to vines.
- Dam design received from Thomas Kelly.
- Fundraising Bazaar.
- Tender issued for excavation of dam foundation.

**TH, JULY 3, 1877
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

This Board met on Saturday. Present: Mr. T. King, Chairman, Messrs. Davis, Bayley, Colson, and H. Bayley.

Employment of Prison Labour.—The Hon. Secretary (Mr. H. Bayley) laid on the table a letter from the Borough Council, dated July 19th, 1877, in reply to a memorial from the Board, offering them a sum of £250, provided that the Board refrained from employing prison labour.—Mr. HAYLEY thought the sum mentioned should be accepted, but that they should have the prison labour till the ornamental water was laid, and afterwards a day at a time, when required.—Mr. BAYLEY considered that the sum possibly required for having the ornamental water being so immediate, the Council should be asked to allow them the prison labour instead of any sum.—Some discussion ensued with regard to being able to do the work without prison labour; and it was ultimately proposed by Mr. HUGHES, seconded by Mr. COLSON, and carried: "That relying on the liberality of the Board in considering any future applications, we accept their present proposal with thanks for the sum, subject to the Board not transferring the prison labour until the completion of the dam for the ornamental water."—It was decided that the Secretary be instructed to communicate the above resolution to the Borough Council; and to further state that the prison labour would not be required by them until the summer; and that in consequence of the presence of the Hon. Major Atkinson and the Executive Officer, the Board had good reason to be thankful for the place for the pond surveyed, and plans prepared, and that in addition to prison labour, money was required.

Leaving Absence.—The Secretary brought to the notice of the Board the absence of a member.—Mr. DAVIS proposed, and Mr. COLSON seconded, "That Mr. Gilman be created leave of absence." Carried.

**TH, JULY 4, 1877
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

Donation to the Botanical Garden Board.—A letter was read from the Hon. Secretary of the Botanical Garden Board, enclosing a resolution relative to the donation, and the prison labour.—The Mayor said the question for the Council to consider was, were they to consent to give the grant and likewise the use of the prisoners to make the pond. He would like to have had some understanding how long it would take to make the pond.—Mr. VINTAS said they wanted the £250 to buy tools for the prisoners to work with. They had made a very fair offer, and if they took the money, they should give a guarantee they would not take the prisoners. His vote for striking to the resolution.—The Mayor said he thought they should not give any money except it was to be spent in the planting of trees. They did not want any rural money roads, as the trees were natural to them. They would be doing a vast deal of good by growing trees, but to spend their money on high ponds was going into a useless expenditure which was utterly unneeded in this town.—Mr. VINTAS considered they would be doing much more good by spreading the money on roads.—Mr. HALL did not agree with what had fallen from the previous speakers. They wanted water for the watering-cart, which could be obtained from the pond. It would be a good opportunity for making it part of their water scheme.—After some further discussion the matter was postponed.

**TH, AUGUST 8, 1877
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

The Recreation Ground.—A letter was read from the Secretary of the Botanical Garden Board, asking the Borough for an answer to its petition on the planting season, was given, and stating for the information of the members that the Board did not require the money to buy tools for the prisoners to work with.—The Chairman said the Mayor had stated that he would see to the matter, but owing to his absence in Wellington, he could not say what had been done.—Mr. VINTAS thought the matter had better stand over.

**TH, AUGUST 9, 1877
FIRE IN THE RECREATION GROUND**

A few days ago, some candles or tea-lighted tapers set fire to the fence on the Devonian Road close to the Recreation Ground. The fire destroyed about a dozen of the Recreation Ground's fencing, and several of the newly-planted trees.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 11, 1877
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

BOTANICAL GARDENS BOARD.
The Board met on Saturday at 6.30 p.m. Present: Mr. T. King (Chairman), Messrs. Colson, Davis, Hall, and Bayley.

Letter to Borough Council.—It was resolved, "That the Secretary be requested to write to the Borough Council, stating that the Board of Directors for Public Recreation having expressed their willingness to receive all stones or prison labour, would now feel obliged if the Council would hold their former offer in relation to their grant in the Bank of New Zealand the £250 as voted by them."

Proceedings in this new fund.—It was decided, "That Mr. Henry be allowed to take over the piece of land lately leased to Mr. South on the same terms, subject to the following conditions:—That the fence and fence be cleared off the land and forwarded to him, to the satisfaction of the Board."

Vote of Thanks.—It was resolved, "That the thanks of the Board be due to Mr. Davis for his munificent donation to the Garden of some Californian plants (*Heliotropium Giganteum*)."

The Board then adjourned.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 22, 1877
RECREATION GROUND UPDATE**

We notice with pleasure that considerable improvements have been effected in the Recreation Ground. A great many trees have lately been planted there. Parallel with the western and eastern boundary of the ground *Platanus incana* have been planted. Some additional paths have also been formed. The fence and fence have in some places been cleared away, and where this has been done the young trees look healthy and vigorous. Good seeds have been sown of plants in variety, as well as of our own native trees. Unfortunately for the Board, the ground from years of neglect is overgrown with ferns, the eradication of which must elude for some time the bulk of the funds at its disposal. We hope to see, ere long, the artificial lake constructed, as this would add very much to the beauty and interest of the ground. No public park or recreation garden is now-a-days considered complete unless it contains a piece of ornamental water. "The Kings of London," Hyde

Park, Regent's Park, Victoria Park and Finsbury Park are well provided for in this respect. Plans for the construction of a small lake have, we are informed, been prepared. The one thing needed now is money.

**TH, OCTOBER 3, 1877
RECREATION GROUND TRESPASS
NOTICE**

NOTICE

ANY PERSON found TRESPASSING between the Times planted in the RECREATION GROUNDS will be prosecuted
H. BAYLEY,
Hon. Sec.

**TH, OCTOBER 4, 1877
DAMAGE TO VINES**

We hear that some persons are in the habit, when visiting the Recreation Ground, of damaging the vines lately planted there. An advertisement in another column, notices that all such persons will be held to prosecution.

**TH, OCTOBER 16, 1877
LARRIKINS IN THE REC**

Sir,—I think you will agree with me that it is of little use our having a Recreation Ground in this town, and spending money and care upon it, unless visitors are at least safe from insult, particularly females, when walking there. I regret to say this does not seem to be the case, as the larrikin element appears to be developing in this Province, as in others. On Sunday last, whilst walking there with a lady, I was much annoyed by the conduct of some six or eight boys and hobby-boys who persisted in dragging our footsteps, and not content with that, proceeded to make remarks in a loud tone of voice upon myself and my companion, which finally wound up with an insulting allusion to both, richly meriting a good whipping. Being unwilling at that time and place to take the course I should have done, had I been alone, I was obliged to let their conduct pass unpunished, but I think the subject is of sufficient importance for your columns, hoping it may draw the attention of the authorities to the necessity of having a police officer on duty at intervals, or some regular park-keeper appointed, who could act as special constable within the grounds. Otherwise this pretty place of recreation must be abandoned to the larrikins of the place, for decent people will not frequent any place of the kind, unless secure from insult. Nor will it end here, for this spirit, if unchecked, will lead to acts of violence and destruction to the trees and shrubs as it has elsewhere.

I enclose the expressions used, that you may judge for yourself as to their fitness under any circumstances; also, my name, in guarantee.—I am, &c.,
A. W. LANSBORN.
New Plymouth, October 16, 1877.

TH, NOVEMBER 9, 1877
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

THE Board met on Tuesday last, Present: Mr. T. King (Chairman), and all the members.

State of the Sydney Botanical Gardens.—The SECRETARY reported that he had written to the Directors of the Botanical Gardens at Sydney for a copy of their rules as to government of their grounds, and had received a reply enclosing the same.

Age Limit.—The SECRETARY stated that it would be advisable to frame a code of bye-laws for the safety and preservation of the lands vested in the Board, as provided for by section 19 of "The Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act, 1875."

Bye-Laws.—The SECRETARY considered it would be necessary to issue a notice forbidding visitors to the grounds bringing dogs with them.

Printing.—It was proposed by Mr. FORD, seconded by Mr. GILSON, and carried, "That fifty copies of section 13 be printed, and posted in various places in the grounds."

Reply to Mr. Kelly.—It was moved on the motion of Mr. COLSON, seconded by Mr. GILSON, "That the Chairman telegraph to Mr. Kelly, M.H.R., requesting him to forward the Bill that is to vest the grounds known as Victoria Park and Botanical Gardens, to the Board."

Cleaning Pathways.—It was decided to clean and form up a portion of the pathways, and that tenders be called for the same. All information as to the work required to be obtained from Mr. Colson.

Resignation of Treasurer.—Mr. GILSON having tendered his resignation as Treasurer, and it being accepted, it was proposed by Mr. DAVIS, and seconded by Mr. FORD, "That a vote of thanks be awarded to him for his past services."—Carried.—It was moved by Mr. GILSON, and seconded by Mr. DAVIS, "That Mr. Eady be appointed Treasurer of the Board."—Carried.

The Board adjourned at 9 p.m.

TH, NOVEMBER 16, 1877
TENDER TO CLEAR PATHS

TENDERS are required for **CLEANING** a PORTION of the **PATHWAY** in the Botanical Gardens. Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. T. COLESON, to whom the Tenders are to be sent on or before **WEDNESDAY**, the 17th instant.—B. BAYLEY, Secy. 3314 n 14

TH, DECEMBER 14, 1877

B A Z A A R,

THE BAZAAR in aid of the New Plymouth Bowling Club and Recreation Grounds will be held in the **ODD FELLOWS' HALL**, on **TUESDAY**, 15th instant.

BAND IN ATTENDANCE.

ADMISSION—6d.; Children, 3d.

Doors open at 7 o'clock.
 3312-4-17

TH, DECEMBER 19, 1877
FUNDRAISING BAZAAR

The bazaar given by the ladies of New Plymouth on behalf of the Bowling Club and Recreation Grounds was opened to the public at 3 p.m. yesterday, and during the afternoon and evening was liberally patronised. The large number of social and ornamental articles exposed for sale were arranged on the tables, whilst near the door was the refreshment stall. About 9 p.m. a large number of presents were present, and the stall-keepers did a good business in consequence. The stage was ornamented with lighting, in front of which was a model of an open boat, built by Mr. Garland, and the model of a schooner, constructed by Mr. Fitzgerald. A neatly-dressed boat, presented by Mr. A. Colson, builder, of Dunedin-street, was specially displayed, and being divided up into several portions sold at a profitable price.

The Committee and ladies and gentlemen who assisted at the stall deserve every credit for their efforts in connection with the bazaar.

We are informed that the total amount realised last evening is eighty five pounds and six shillings, which there are several pounds worth of goods still unsold.

The following is a description of the model, the workmanship of Mr. Garland, and in which we refer to our report of the bazaar.—It is a small boat, and three feet long, nine inches broad; both of alternate streaks of pine and Australian cedar; the stern being of tawa, cut out of the solid and fastened with brass pins. The struts are of honey-comb, fitted inside with cedar and honey-comb gratings; the stern and head-boards are of humpback; the portrait of the builder is set into the back board; the boat is varnished inside and French polished outside; the seats are made of pine.

TH, DECEMBER 31, 1877

Tenders.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

TENDERS are invited for **RECONSTRUCTING** the **FUNDATION** for the **HALL**, and carrying the **FOUNDATION** of the same up to the height of 7 feet above present water level. Tenders, close on the 12th January next, at 12 noon, and to be sent to the under-signed, who will furnish all particulars. The lowest tender not necessarily accepted.

B. BAYLEY,

Secy. Secy. and Treasurer.

December 29, 1877. 3315 n 14 & 15

Thomas Kingwell Skinner (junior) 1849—1925

Skinner was a board member from 1881 to 1901 but had surveyed for the Board from its inception. He trained as a surveyor under Octavius Carrington. He surveyed the New Plymouth to Hawera railway in 1882.

Robert Clinton Hughes in his 1916 history of the park said the following about Skinner.

“Another person who deserves special mention is Mr T. K. Skinner, surveyor, who was appointed to the board on the resignation of Thomas Colson. With Mr Skinner’s professional qualifications were united a great admiration for the grounds and a capacity to foresee and provide for their development on permanent lines. He cheerfully gave his time and that of his cadet to take levels and do such other survey and engineering works as were necessary. He laid out nearly all the paths. A feature which he insisted on was to have a common level for the main paths, thus the level or altitude of the path at the Carrington Road entrance is the same as that of the paths around the upper lake, even up as far as Brooklands. He also laid out and supervised the work of converting the swamp near the Liardet Street entrance into a Sports Ground.

He suggested and supervised the cutting away of the southern extremity of what is now called Cannon Hill, which extended almost to the edge of the lake, to provide a site for the Band Rotunda. The material was found very useful in strengthening the dam of the large lake, the condition of which had given reason for much anxiety during many a winter flood. The planting of the puriri trees near the rotunda was his idea. He also designed and supervised the extension of the large lake and the forming of the little islands at the upper end, and he converted the swamp beyond it into a long area of firm ground which was planted with a great variety of native trees. A love of flowers, a knowledge of native trees, unbounded enthusiasm, combined with his engineering ability, enabled him to render services to the public which deserve grateful acknowledgment. Mr Skinner resigned in 1902.”



The picture above is a studio portrait of T. K. Skinner wearing a Robinsón Crusoe costume. (Puke Ariki PHO2009-221)

1878

This year was all about the lake. The construction of the dam was a massive undertaking. All the work was done manually, and the Board had hoped to get some assistance using prison labour. Unfortunately, this was not forthcoming. To raise the funds to construct the dam the board members had to extend their personal credit. There were some changes to the original design, including an under sluice, this being necessary to drain the lake as a safety measure. The changes recommended by resident engineer C. W. Hursthouse added significantly to the cost.

There were unforeseen issues, such as springs appearing as the earth was removed and large rocks which occasionally had to be removed using explosives. Thankfully, these were overcome, and the dam is still doing its job today. When the dam was finished and the lake filled with water it was described as having an area of nearly two acres, a length of nearly 400 yards with varying widths. Then the lake extended down to the northern end of Goodwin Dell.

How the lake was to be used became an interesting issue. Contentiously, Mr W. K. Hulke of the Acclimatisation Society suggested a union between his organisation and the Recreation Ground Board on condition that bathing and boating were banned. He wanted the lake exclusively for fish, and duck breeding. The Board would have welcomed a union as the Acclimatisation Society was cash rich. Unfortunately the terms were unacceptable.

The Board decided that individuals could put their own boats on the lake at an annual cost of £1 1s. Mr Nicoll (tinsmith) took advantage of this as early as May, christening his newly built 15ft iron outrigger "Lady of the Lake". Initially boating was not allowed on Sundays then it was changed to Sundays before 12 noon, much to the disgust of the New Plymouth *Wesleyan Chronicle*.

By the end of the year bathing in the lake was proposed but only if an individual had purchased a season ticket, and not after 8am. The southern end of the lake which was long and narrow had become known as The Dardanelles.

The Board decided to employ a full-time custodian and started discussions about reclaiming the swamp near the Liardet Street entrance. This would prove to be significantly more problematic than it first appeared.

Some of the plant donors this year were Messrs. Mitchinson, Skinner, Butterworth, Hammerton, Gibson, Howell, Newman, and Uncles. Also, a black swan was donated by Mr Wilson of Kakaramea.

A fundraising bazaar was organised, held in the Odd Fellows' Hall. Lots of stalls were run by a who's who of the local ladies. A huge £256 was raised for the Board.

Summary of significant events

- Dam construction in progress.
- Under-sluice added to the dam design.
- Dam completed.
- Pleasure boat gifted to Recreation Grounds to place in newly formed lake.
- Shrubs donated by Messrs. Mitchinson, Skinner, Butterworth, L.A. Hammerton and S. Howell.
- Black Swan donated by Mr W. Colson of Kakaramea.
- Custodian position advertised. Twenty shillings a week.
- Bathing proposed, only allowed with season ticket and before 8am.

TH, JANUARY 3, 1878
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on the 29th December, at 7.30 p.m., when Mr. T. King presided. Present: Messrs. Bayley, Colson, Davis, and Hughes.

Visiting Flower-beds.—It was decided to employ Mr. Brindley for the purpose of weeding the flower-beds in the Garden.

Repairs to Mr. Brindley's House.—Messrs. Colson and Bayley were appointed by the Board to examine the house occupied by Mr. Brindley, and take the necessary steps to put the same in repair; the cost not to exceed one year's rent.

Preparing Lease.—The Secretary was instructed to take the necessary steps to have a lease drawn out between the Board and Mr. Brindley.

Resolving Fines, &c.—It was resolved to allow any person to take the grass, fern, or traps, from the grounds of the Board, subject to arrangement with the custodian thereof, Mr. Carnall.

Letter of Thanks.—The Secretary was instructed to write a letter to the Committee of Ladies of the late Bazaar, thanking them in the name of the Board, and as a public body, for their handsome donation.

Orders for Materials.—It was decided to call for tenders for excavating the foundations for the dam, and carrying the embankments of the same up to a height of seven feet above present water level. Tenders to be submitted to the Hon. Secretary, who will furnish all details of the work. All tenders for the same to be sent in on or before the 12th January; lowest tender not necessarily accepted.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1878
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Saturday last, at 7.30 p.m., when Mr. T. King presided. Present: Messrs. Bayley, Colson, Davis, and Hughes.

The Ornamental Water.—The Honorary Secretary (who kindly attended at the request of the Board), strongly advised the construction of a deep under-sluice as an absolute necessity in connection with the dam excavation works, and that by constructing the same it ensured the future safety of the dam and protected private property from damage in case of accident.—After some discussion, it was proposed by Mr. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Davis, and carried, "That the construction of the deep under-sluice, as suggested by Mr. C. W. Stephenson, and according to the plans prepared by Mr. Bayley, be proceeded with, and that additional excavations to the full width of the proposed foundation, be carried on."

The Contractor.—The Secretary then stated that the present contractor had stated his willingness to clear out the rest of the foundation at 1s. 6d. per yard, cutting for culvert 1s. 6d. per yard, and for the completion of puddle wall and slopes, 6d. per yard. It was moved, on the motion of Mr. Colson, that the embankment be carried up to the full height as originally proposed in plan prepared, the cost not to exceed £100.—It was also decided that the contractor's (Mr. Nutt) offer be accepted at the prices agreed upon respecting the work now in progress, except as to the excavation for culvert, which shall be at the rate of 1s. per yard, or 1s. 6d. if rocks interfere and have to be removed.

Members Accused Personally Responsible.—It was also resolved that for the purpose of raising the necessary funds the members of the Board pledge their personal credit.

After passing a vote of thanks to Mr. Stephenson for his professional advice, and Mr. Bayley for his nobly prepared plan of the under-sluice, the Board adjourned.

TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1878
DONATIONS

DONATION TO THE BOTANICAL GARDEN BOARD.

We have been requested to give publicity to the following letter from the Secretary of the Botanic Garden Board:—

Taranaki Botanical Gardens Board,
 New Plymouth, December 26, 1877.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF LADIES OF THE LATE BAZAAR.

I am desired by the members of the above Board to convey their duty appreciation of your kindness and generous interest shown towards them by forwarding part of the proceeds of the above Bazaar to form a trust fund, ultimately to be expended on the grounds for the benefit of the community at large. With thinking you as a public body, we hope that at some future time you will again accord us your powerful assistance.—I am, &c.,

H. BAYLEY.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

STATEMENT OF CASH AND GOODS RECEIVED.

By Cash Donations from Friends of Ladies	£	s.	d.
By Value of Goods Given	12	4	8
By Donations from T. King, Esq.	8	8	0
By Donations from E. Weston, Esq.	1	0	0
By Donations from H. Weston, Esq.	1	0	0
	£20	12	8

TH, FEBRUARY 14, 1878
DAM EXCAVATION UPDATE

We are pleased to observe that the dam excavation works in connection with the "ornamental water" to be formed in the Botanical Gardens are being rapidly proceeded with. The contractor is now engaged clearing out the dam site, to obtain a foundation for the public wall, the said wall to be thirty-one feet in height from foundation to top of dam. Measuring from back to back the dam top will be about 110 feet in length. The water in front of the dam will be about sixteen feet deep. On the west bank of the dam there will be a deep under-sluice cut, 115 ft. in depth and 30 ft. in width, which will carry a culvert 1 foot square and 30 ft. in length, in three lengths of 30 ft. each. This sluice is constructed for the purpose of emptying the lake when repairs are required, and will doubtless prove of great service in this respect. It is expected that both dam and under-sluice will be completed early in April, and then the New Plymouth public will have the satisfaction of seeing in their recreation ground a sheet of ornamental water second, perhaps, to none in the colony, and similar to those which now beautify the public parks of London. We feel it is but just to say that great credit is due to Mr. H. Bayley and the other members of the Botanical Gardens Board for the spirit they have shown in the improvement of our local park. It must be remembered that these gentlemen have become personally responsible for the carrying out of some of these works, having to that end pledged their personal credit; whilst, added to this, the circumstances with which they superintended the works in progress, much at the hands of the public, a just word of praise.

TH, APRIL 8, 1878
FUNDRAISING

TARANAKI BOTANICAL GARDENS BAZAAR.

WORKING COMMITTEE.

THE LADIES interested in the above, will meet at the Old Fellows' Hall, Townshill, the 7th instant, at 2.30 p.m.

JANE CARRINGTON,

Hon. Sec.

TH, APRIL 26, 1878
GIFT OF PLEASURE BOAT

The dam construction works in the Botanical Gardens are rapidly approaching completion; in fact, there is already a large sheet of water in the space enclosed by the dam. Mr. Hirst has kindly presented to the Botanical Gardens Board a neat and commodious pleasure boat, which will doubtless prove a most acceptable gift.

TH, APRIL 29, 1878
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Saturday last, at 7 p.m., when Mr. T. King presided. Present: Messrs. Bayley, Colson, Davis, Gilmore, and Hughes.

Lease.—The Secretary was authorized to affix the common seal of the Board to the lease from the Board to James Nutt.

Cash Credit Bond.—It was decided to increase the cash credit bond to £100.

Vote of Thanks.—It was resolved "That a vote of thanks be passed to T. Hirst, Esq., for his handsome donation, viz., a pleasure boat; likewise to J. M. Visian, Esq. for his kindness in supplying the iron-work for the dam."

Boat Pool.—It was resolved "That any person desirous of placing a boat on the pool for private use be allowed to do so on the payment of an annual subscription of £1 1s."

Credits.—It was decided to request parents "not to allow young children to frequent the grounds unless in charge of a responsible person; and that the public be warned of the danger in walking through the grounds at night."

The Secretary was instructed to get the foregoing resolution printed, and to post the same at the public entrances of the grounds.

Following all the business, the Board adjourned.

TH, MAY 16, 1878
MR NICOLL'S OUTRIGGER

Mr. Nicoll, the townsmith, has just built an iron outrigger. It is 15 feet long and with 2 feet beam.

TH, MAY 25, 1878
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

This Board met on Wednesday last. Present: Messrs. Boyley, Colson, Ford, and Higgins. Mr. H. G. Higgins occupied the chair.

Proposed Union of the Botanical Garden Board with the Acclimatization Society.—Mr. HULLER attended the meeting, and said he was there on behalf of the public interest, in advance of the notice of the Botanical Garden Board with the Acclimatization Society; and further stated that he had increased the numbers of the latter society, and that they fully approved of the action he was taking. He then informed the meeting as to possible alterations in the event of coalition, as building a pier, prohibiting boating or bathing in the pond, and utilizing the same for fish and waterfowl breeding, &c. After considerable discussion it was resolved:

That Messrs. Colson, Higgins, King, and the late Secretary wait upon the Acclimatization Society, and maintain their views as to the advisability of a coalition, and report the result at a full meeting of the Board.

Advancing Leases.—It was resolved that the late Secretary designate L. Ryan's lease of the cottage in the grounds, and also to ascertain C. Brindley's intentions respecting the same, and report.

The Overflow from the Pond.—It was decided that the direction in which the overflow from the pond should go should be left to the late Secretary.

To Sewer on Sunday.—On the motion of Mr. FORD, seconded by Mr. COLSON, it was resolved "that the pond should not be used for boating purposes on a Sunday, and that the Custodian be instructed to enforce the same."

Public House.—It was resolved that the Contracting write to the Inspector of Police requesting him to place a watchman in the grounds on a Sunday between the hours of two and four o'clock in the afternoon.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, MAY 25, 1878
OUTRIGGER CHRISTENED

The ceremony of christening Mr. Smith's out-rigger was performed yesterday in the Government Water in the Botanical Garden, with all the ceremony that locally attaches to such an event. We hear that two gentlemen volunteered as that important occasion were distinguished characters, the "Lady of the Lake," having, like many of her detainers these gentlemen arrived, with very little ceremony, on their sailing to make too intimate acquaintance with her.

TH, MAY 28, 1878
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

MR. HULLER AND THE POND.
TO THE EDITOR.

Sir, — When Mr. Huller attended the meeting of the Board he said he was there on behalf of the public interest, to advance the views of the Botanical Garden Board with the Acclimatization Society; and furthermore stated that he had interviewed the members of the latter society, and that they fully ap-

proved the action he was taking. He then informed the meeting as to the possible alterations in the event of coalition, as building a pier, prohibiting boating or bathing in the pond, and utilizing the same for fish and waterfowl breeding, &c. What a covert illustration of self-deceiving patriotism do we see in Mr. Huller's first sentence to the Board! "I am here on behalf of the public interest," says the small-voice. As the risk of appearing ungrateful I should like to ask Mr. Huller when he addresses the public interest is at stake in the Board's actions, and whether he is or is not a well-constituted advocate of the public interest? He was a self-constituted advocate of the public interest in the boating business; but an unauthorised public did not appear to see it in the same light. It was very kind of Mr. Huller to constitute himself a deputation to wait upon the members of the Acclimatization Society individually, to place the matter of amalgamation before them; but if we remember rightly the Board offered a large portion of its grounds to the Society some time ago, which the Society refused to accept, and now that the members of the Board have worked so energetically, have performed such an amount of good work, and have pledged their own credit in the bargain, the Society cannot with a good grace ask for an amalgamation, even though it be through the mediation of the distinguished Mr. Huller. It is to be hoped that the Board will not be anything so suicidal to its popularity as to utilize public money in purchasing Mr. Huller's temporary benevolent hobby by making that beautiful sheet of water they have enclosed into exclusively a "duck pond." The object of Mr. Huller's labour of love is well known; it is simply the prohibition of boating or bathing in the pond; and he found it impossible to cover this object over in his interview with the Board. Now if the Board adopts Mr. Huller's suggestion and prohibits boating or bathing in the pond, it will have broken faith with the public, by having obtained subscriptions under false pretences. My money and labour has been given with the distinct understanding that a pond was to be made for boating and bathing; and I believe those good bodies who are now working night and day to augment the funds of the Board (and who are ever ready and willing to labour nobly in the interest of charity or of the public good) are so doing with the most distinct understanding. I would submit that, as it is quite possible to have houses, fields, and lakes, without prohibiting boating or swimming, and as the Board is quite capable of keeping three things without the doubtful assistance of the Society, the Board would be acting unwisely in furnishing the support and confidence of the public by contracting with a society whose sphere of usefulness is questionable, and whose popularity is (with the exception of the late Secretary) of the lowest order. Furthermore, the Board may not remember that amalgamation means the collection of its power, and virtually, through the prestige of the Society, the members of the Board would have no control over the management of their own property. — I am, &c.,

A WORKER FOR THE BOARD.

TH, JUNE 13, 1878
ABOUT THE DAM

As the public have shown a great deal of interest in the formation, construction, and the progress made with the works connected with the dam in the Botanical Garden, and as they are now completed, a short record of what has been done may not be out of place, and will be interesting to many of our readers. It is now nearly five months since the contract to do the work was taken by Mr. Hall, and, notwithstanding every drawback, it has been completed to the entire satisfaction of the Board. Before, however, proceeding to describe what has been done, it ought to be stated the general information that had met the members of the Board pledged their own personal credit to the amount of £150, the public would not bear witness to the plans of utilising water as their own to be found in New Zealand. The public are certainly indebted to those gentlemen for their spirited action in the matter. We trust that members of the community will attend the dam to be built in aid of the grounds, and to be left half as ready to spend their money in the purchase of articles as the ladies of New Plymouth have been in making them, and a large addition to the funds of the Board will be realized.

The greatest difficulty which the Contractor had to contend with was the water. Owing to the possible formation of the ground it was not possible to direct the stream, therefore it was found necessary to form a coffer dam some 150 feet across the works, in order to carry the stream by a race cut in the side of the hill clear of the proposed foundation, about 20 feet across. The contractor was then given a well, although water was still coming in too fast to admit of the work being carried on with satisfaction. The spring level out in sandy directions, the strongest was at the side of the excavation. These springs did not show until the Contractor had got down about 1 foot through a stiff black soil, very much like peat, evidently the stream deposit for many years, for it was full of leaves, sticks, &c., some of them being as green as if plucked the day before. The Contractor now introduced a California pump, and found that by plying it every half-hour the water could be kept down. Beneath this layer of black soil was a bed of volcanic tuff about 2 inches thick, resembling powdered porous stone. It was quite green, and evidently not much used. This was resting on a bed of very coarse white clay, about 2 feet in thickness. At right this seemed to be formed bottom, but the sand being too thinning gravel underneath, it was found necessary to remove the clay. Large rocks were begun to show themselves, and banks of iron with the layers still attached and quite green. These tanks of black loam were filled up with shells of mussels 2 inches long. A further excavation of 2 feet brought the contractor to the bottom, which consisted of a stiff grey. Then being thus down about 11 feet below the surface their attention against the water was very laborious. It was now found necessary to run a bank of clay across the excavation, 12 feet from the upper side in the former level of the stream. This being well pulled the lower was now at once, for the water collected behind it during the remainder of the time the contractor was at work on the excavation was tolerably dry. The foundation for the public well was then started down 2 feet into the bottom. The excavation being completed, the filling-in commenced, the public well being kept about 2 feet below the side, as they rose and grided by plants there in ground it spreading. This system was followed till the completion of the works.

The intention of the Board in the first instance was to have formed the dam without a crossing sluice, but further considerations induced them to alter their plan, and a deep water sluice was cut on the east bank. It was found necessary to use dynamite in making this cut, as large rocks kept cropping up, but most of the cutting was through very compact

ground exposed. Three long culverts were made, each ten feet long by twelve inches clear inside, and carefully laid in a bed of rubble and well covered for two feet over. The frame for the lift was then placed, the aprons were set in the ground, and well fixed at top, bottom, and outside, and allowed round the mouth of the culvert to keep it tight. A by-pass the culvert was done about two feet in the width, and the rock in front was well secured and braced for about twelve feet. The front of the lift is boarded with planks two inches thick up to the top, and let over the sides of the one-way feet; and the middle is continued behind all the way up, six feet in breadth. The remaining twenty-five feet is filled up with earth, and kept from falling out over the one at the end by a rubble wall eight feet high. There are of course many other little things that deserve to be noticed, but the foregoing are the principal ones. That it was a large undertaking is needless to say, and that the contractors have only performed their work, the proof is its imperishable life.

We have not as yet been able to obtain the exact information as to the amount of earth required, even of water, &c., but the following is an approximate estimate:—About 2,000 loads of earth have been removed, and the amount of water retained is nearly two acres. The length of the sheet, in one direction, comprises its length, as it will not reach nearly 100 yards, with varying breadth. The total length of the dam across the way on top is 115 feet by 10 feet wide, with a breadth of 50 feet at the foundation. The pressure of water on the embankment will be over 400 tons—a weight which need not alarm the most timid, as the stability of the work is unquestionable.

In conclusion, we can only wish that the Board had more funds at its disposal, in order that it might continue improving and beautifying the grounds, which are being made a popular resort for the public for pleasure and amusement.

TH, JULY 20, 1878 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Monday last, when Mr. T. King presided. Present: Messrs. H. Bayley, Coburn, Davis, and Hughes.

Parcels of Strata.—It was resolved that the offer made by Mr. Nicholson of 100 shares at 10s. per 100 be accepted, and that a parcel of grass land be procured.

Cutting Ferns.—It was resolved that all fern and fane be cut on the west slope, cleared off and burnt, and that 800 holes, more or less, be dug, three feet wide by 18 inches deep.

Answers for the Board.—Mr. HUGHES moved, Mr. BATHURY seconded, and it was carried, "That Mr. T. Kelly, M.H.C., be respectfully requested to be good enough to take whatever legislative action may be thought necessary to have the Botanical Gardens and Victoria Park Reserves handed over to the Board."

Mr. Davy to Report on the Dam.—Mr. COLEMAN moved, Mr. DAVIS seconded, and it was carried, "That the thanks of the Board be tendered to Mr. H. Bayley for his valuable services in superintending the construction of the dam, and that in order to relieve him of responsibility, and to give assurance to the public, Mr. Davy be requested, in exchange and report upon the security of the work."

Boating Question.—The question relative to renting of boats on a Sunday on the lake was brought up, but no satisfactory conclusion was arrived at, and the matter was postponed till the next meeting of the Board.

The Board then adjourned.

The Board met on the 15th July. Present: Messrs. Coleman, Coburn, Davis, Hughes, and Bayley. In the absence of Mr. King, Mr. Hughes was voted in the chair.

Mr. Davy's Report on the Dam.—The Secretary then read the following report of Mr. Davy on the dam:—

New Plymouth, July 4, 1878.

To H. Bayley, Esq.

Sir,—Since visiting the dam at the Recreation Ground this afternoon with you, I have examined the drawings of same furnished by

you, and have now to report as follows:—

That the top width contemplated, viz., 10 feet, is ample for the depth of water proposed to be stored, but to prevent damage by wash upon the inside slope, it would be well that it had been made a little flatter. It is usual also to plant these slopes, but I fancy considerations of economy have prevented this being done. It will be well in future, if opportunity offers, that some such protection should be made; or, failing that, that some plants with spreading and but slightly penetrating roots, should be placed. So far as I can see of the manner in carrying out this work, I would, on another stage, have suggested that the material should have been placed in thin uniform layers all over its surface, and these well tramped down rather than forming it to partial widths, and to full height at first. The general condition and order of the whole mass would thus have been better secured. As it is, however, I would recommend that the water be not allowed to rise to a greater depth than, say, 10 feet at the deepest part, until the whole is properly consolidated.

The puddle wall appears to have been placed with considerable care, but it is rather thinner than usual; but if it has been properly worked the deluging will not probably affect either the bridge or the safety of the work in any extent.

With regard to the bye-wash, I would recommend that it be lowered, so that its water-way is not less than six feet below the top level of the embankment, and also that it be widened to six feet in the bottom.

If the precautions with regard to the greatest depth of water and the bye-wash be attended to, I do not think there will be any danger of the embankment giving way; but I would strongly urge that the uniform consolidation be obtained before much water is stored, for the danger of occurrence of any large mass upon a grass embankment is very great.

—I have, &c.,

GEOFFREY H. DAVY, C.E.

—Mr. DAVIS proposed, Mr. COLEMAN seconded, and it was carried, "That a letter be written to Mr. Davy, conveying the hearty thanks of the Board for his full and valuable report, and the Board at the same time express their gratitude for his liberality in not charging for the same."

Donations of Strata, &c.—It was resolved that the thanks of the Board be accorded to Messrs. Nicholson, Skinner, Harmerworth, L. A. Harmerworth, and E. Howell, for donations of strata; and to Mr. W. Coburn, of Kaitiaki, for a black stone.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, JULY 31, 1878 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met last evening. Present: Messrs. Bayley, Coburn, Davis, Ford, and Hughes. Mr. Hughes was voted in the chair.

Open Road.—The account for the road was referred to be paid.

Cutting and Grubbing Ferns.—It was resolved that the opening of the tenders for cutting and grubbing the ferns on the west side of the stream be postponed until the next meeting, and that a man be employed to cut and grub the ferns on the east side of the stream, near Mr. Callahan's.

Donations of Trees and Strata.—It was resolved that a vote of thanks be accorded to Messrs. Newman, Gibson, and Thomas for their liberal donations.

Drainage and Retaining Sumps.—Messrs. Davis, Bayley, and Coburn were appointed a committee to consider the best means of draining and retaining the sumps by the Lislet-street entrance to the grounds, and to prepare and lay before the Board a plan of the same, with an estimate of the cost.

Alteration of the Bye-wash.—The Hon. Secretary read the following letter:—

New Plymouth, August 25, 1878.

GENTLEMEN,—Before the drawings are necessarily laid over the reservoir bye-wash, I feel it is my duty to bring before the notice of the Board some views, the advisability of carrying the storm water the other side. It

justification to myself I must state that the present direction of the overflow was antagonistic to my own ideas, and in direct opposition to the plans prepared and accepted by the Board. I naturally opposed the alteration when it was brought before the meeting, and now, since Mr. Davy has confirmed my own opinions, regret that I did not go more into detail at that time.

Mr. Davy was fully alive to the disadvantages the bye-wash would be subject to, but economical considerations towards us induced him to let it go.

With the view of now laying these before the Board for their consideration, and for record in the minutes, I shall have the honor of stating them at length.

1. The bye-wash being carried at the foot of an embankment 25 feet high, it naturally forms the receptacle for any breaks or slips that may take place from the slopes, and as summer is now coming on, they will be numerous and heavy, necessitating constant attention to keep the channel clear. I may state that in forming the present last a large slip occurred, thereby showing the loose and unstable nature of the soil.

2. Owing to the presence of the embankment I dare not store more water than there is for the next 12 months; and to bring it up to flow through the present bye-wash would necessitate a rise of six feet higher. I consider, then, the present stability of the dam warrants, consequently I am obliged to see the scoring done to recede the supply, and in the event of its getting out of order, and my being unable to fix the gate, I would not be answerable for the result.

3. Owing to the formation of the cutting, and knowing the treacherous nature of the soil, I should not feel justified in letting any process be employed in deepening it which is my charge, and to make it sufficient a depth of 10 feet would have to be reached.

4. Having explained before that the safety of the dam depends on the attention paid to the scoring stage, you may also add that this depends on personal inspection, at least, once a day, during unsettled weather. Mr. Seal has, during the last two months, kindly relieved me from any anxieties I may have felt as to the rise and fall of the water. During absence by, he attended to the lift and regulated the storage, but now, as he is shortly leaving, it will be necessary to find a substitute in his place.

Having now explained to the Board the drawbacks we may expect from the present state of things, I will venture, with your permission, to point out a remedy.

Unfortunately, there has been expenditure in that direction to the amount of £15, still, in the face of that, I would urge the Board to construct an overflow on the east bank to the present water level. I have estimated the cost of the excavation, and can get it done for 5d. a yard, and in where stone, rock, or boulders are met with, I have roughly surveyed the ground, and find that there would be under 500 yards of earth to remove. The cost, at the outside, would be £5 or £7. The safety of such a course is to be seen at a glance, the stored water relieves itself as it rises, the lift can be permanently fastened down, and no attention required, thereby relieving the Board of a necessary expense in employing a man to look after it. There would be no danger of the slides falling in, as they would rest, in the highest place be more than 15 feet; and, in conclusion, I am of opinion that it is not desirable to allow a constant and violent rush of water at the mouth and exit of the scoring stage, as they being only gravel well runned, it would tend to work away the foundations of the gate.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. BATHURY,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer,

To the Chairman of the Board of
Trustees for Public Recreation.

—It was resolved that Mr. Bayley's letter advocating the alteration of the bye-wash from the western to the eastern side, be referred for the consideration of a full meeting of the Board.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, SEPTEMBER 17, 1878
BYE-WASH TENDER

RECREATION GROUNDS.

TENDERS will be received until the 1st instant, for **DISPENING** the **BYE-WASH** on the West Side of the City, and **SLUICING** the **RAVE** above. For particulars apply to Mr. T. COLSON.

H. BAYLEY,
6090 a 17 10 20 Hon. Mem. and Treasurer.

TH, SEPTEMBER 19, 1878
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on the 19th instant, at 7 p.m., when Mr. T. King presided. Present: Messrs. Bayley, Colson, Davis, Ford, Gilmore, Hughes.

Cleaning Ponds.—The SECRETARY stated that he had received four tenders for cutting and grubbing the banks on the east side of the stream.—The Board decided to accept the tender of D. Claffey, at 10 1/2c.

Bye-wash.—The adjacent question of the bye-wash this came before the Board, and after considerable discussion, it was proposed by Mr. BAYLEY, and seconded by Mr. COLSON, "That the proposed bye-wash be deepened eighteen inches by tenders, and that the bank above be sloped off, and the earth placed behind the main tenders to be called for the same."—An amendment to the foregoing proposition was then made by Mr. BAYLEY, and seconded by Mr. GILMORE, to the effect that the bye-wash should be constructed on the east side according to the original plan. The original motion was carried.

Boating.—The Secretary then brought the boating question before the Board, and a resolution was passed to the effect that there should be none after 12 noon on Sundays.

Custodian.—It was resolved on the motion of Mr. DAVIS, seconded by Mr. COLSON, "That a permanent gardener and custodian be engaged at 20s. per week, a three-roomed cottage being found him, and half an acre of ground, rent free."

The Board then adjourned.

TH, SEPTEMBER 21, 1878
CUSTODIAN WANTED

RECREATION BOARD.

TENDERS will be received by the undersigned up to the 1st instant, for the **RETAIENING** of **CUSTODIAN** of the **RECREATION GROUNDS**. Salary, 21 per week, with use of a three-roomed cottage and half an acre of ground.

H. BAYLEY,
6090 a 17 10 20 Hon. Mem.

TH, OCTOBER 19, 1878
BOATING ON SUNDAYS

The Recreation Ground Board were this day passed an extraordinary resolution, forbidding the owners of boats to row on the ornamental water on Sundays. At an after meeting that resolution was modified, and permission given to use the water for boating purposes up till noon on Sundays. The New Hyacinth Weeping *Cherivide* appears not to approve of this, because "it is fully taken advantage of by numbers of young men and boys, who spend the Sabbath forenoon at this position," and then goes on to say, "We would ask the Committee whether they think it honest on their part to first secure the co-operation of all classes of the community,

including prominent church members, and then to suffer this shameless desecration of the sacred day. We certainly cannot condemn their forthcoming leisure to the sympathies of our congregation if this objectionable resolution is not rescinded." We can hardly see the distinction between walking in the garden, and rowing on the water, but perhaps the *Cherivide* would wish the grounds closed on the only day in the week the greater portion of the community have time and inclination to visit them.

TH, NOVEMBER 5, 1878
FUNDRAISING

RECREATION GROUNDS BAZAAR.

THIS bazaar will be held at the Odd Fellows' Hall, on the 5th and 6th instants. **ADMISSION:** Adults, First Day, 6d.; Second Day, 9d. Children, 3d. Doors open from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., and from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., each day.

H. BAYLEY,
Hon. Sec.

TH, NOVEMBER 9, 1878
FUNDRAISING

RECREATION GROUNDS BAZAAR.

A **BAZAAR** for raising funds for improving the Recreation Grounds was held yesterday in the Odd Fellows' Hall, and it far surpassed any previous effort of the kind in Taranaki. It was a display of dazzling brilliancy that fairly astonished the visitors, who after entering became helpless victims to the bewitching influence of the ladies who presided over the stalls, or fished, fair-ies, about the room. It would require bright colours, and the pencil of an artist rather than the steel pen of a scribe, to give anything like a description of the appearance of the Hall; and therefore our account of it will naturally be meagre, and all we can do to convey to our readers a correct impression of what the place was really like. We can only say that by careful arrangement of arrangements and hangings, with flowers and coloured lighting interspersed, a very charming effect was produced, and when the Hall was lighted up the scene was really marvellous. The stalls were ranged along the sides of the Hall, and one ran down the centre. The stage was set apart for the colporteur department; whilst two stalls on either side of the door at the entrance were devoted solely to toys and children's presents. On entering, we found so many beautiful things to look at that it was extremely difficult to know where to commence in describing them. We shall, however, first take the stalls to the right, and in going round the room mention those things which caught our eyes; but our glances at the things were so intensely made that we fear there were many articles both beautiful and valuable that must have necessarily escaped our notice.

On entering the hall immediately to the right by the side of the door was Stall No. 1, which was presided over by Miss Arden, Miss E. White, Miss F. Macdonald, Miss H. Sims, Miss M. Colson. Here were to be found toys in abundance, and many juvenile visitors stood gazing at the wares before their eyes, and wishing they were millionaires, that they could purchase the whole stock.

Stall No. 2 was presided over by Mrs. Crumpton, and Mrs. Halgreen, assisted by Miss Watkins, Miss Walker, and Miss Smith. The things on this stall were very beautiful, and were very tastefully displayed. Amongst the articles was a very exquisite piece of workmanship in the shape of a "Van Goyen," which attracted considerable attention. There were here also all kinds of hand work, arrangements, photographs, pincushions, arrangements, and articles which looked very beautiful, but of the use of which we were in total ignorance.

Stall No. 3 was presided over by Mrs. C. W. Hawthorne, Mrs. O'Carroll, assisted by Miss Corrington, Miss E. Hides, Miss E. Haines, Miss Courtney, and was equipped with beautiful and valuable articles, causing large crowds to gather and admire them. There were card baskets, picture frames, brackets in leather work, and numerous and beautiful specimens of tatting, as well as very pretty specimens of Costume work. There was a very beautiful; and the basket woven to a specimen of ornamental workmanship, could certainly not have been surpassed. There were hand work baskets and other fancy commodities, which a learner naturally suggests, to be found on this stall.

Stall 4 was for refreshments, and was presided over by Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Dorewell, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Colson, and Mrs. Havel, assisted by Miss White, Miss E. White, and Miss A. Marshall. The chief attraction of this stall was of course the cake made by Mr. Havel, confectioner, of Currie-street, in which he attempted to represent a lake with the white cream swimming on it; around it were neatly laid out gardens, and in the centre a pagoda. The other articles in this stall must have been appreciated by they seemed to disappear with marvellous rapidity.

The decorations of the stall were made by Mr. T. E. Skinner, and right worthily he fulfilled the trust imposed upon him. By a skillful and beautiful arrangement of ferns, palms, and other quite a rustic air was formed, which was most attractive.

Stall No. 5 was presided over by Mrs. E. Hamerton, Miss G. E. Hamerton, Mrs. A. E. Douglas, Mrs. Phillips, and Miss Walker—assisted by Miss Smith, Miss Leatham, and Miss Harefield. The supply of articles on this stall were both rich and beautiful, some of them being more than usually valuable. Some especially worked specimens of Berlin wool and hand-work, are expressive of the taste and industry of the fair Fiddlers who presided there. There were pincushions and other articles, all very beautiful.

Stall No. 6 was presided over by Mrs. Dougan and Mrs. Bacon, assisted by Miss Colson and Miss Brooking. Here were to be found some useful as well as ornamental articles, and a very good specimen was on this stall. There were pincushions, photographs, crocheted work, pictures, and other articles which we really cannot remember, but which, as they were grouped together, looked very pretty and attractive.

Stall No. 7 was presided over by Mrs. C. Brown, assisted by Miss A. White, Miss Brown, Miss E. Hamerton, and Miss E. Leatham. This was at the left side of the entrance-door, and was loaded with toys of every description. There were to be found some handsomely-dressed dolls, of which some white dresses were worn by the little girls, who often were heard exclaiming to "Mamma, do buy a doll," reminding the very best harbour for twelve months at least. There was a collection of top's whistles, the present of some treasures in the place.

Stall No. 8 was in the centre of the room, and was presided over by Mrs. Colson, Miss Powell, and Mrs. Feltz. At this stall there was a large quantity of useful articles, such as baby linen, and things pertaining to ladies' wardrobe, all of the most superior workmanship. On this stall were some specimens of good designs, the fancy work of which had been made by Mr. F. Havel for the bazaar, suspended from the roof were three fly-catchers made of white lead and iron, which were very pretty.

"The Bazaar" faced the entrance door, and was in front of the lower stall. It was formed of fern, palms, and arrangements; and the grandest dolls were Miss Dorewell, Miss Hamerton, and Miss Marshall, who certainly were not the least attractive part of it. Here in all her glory was a large doll dressed as a bride, as she would appear at the altar—complemented in white silk and tulle, quite model for future brides to follow. There were also some most amusing toys at this stall, especially the one showing "where the milk goes"

TH, NOVEMBER 12, 1878
FUNDRAISING BAZAAR A SUCCESS

This evening in aid of the funds for the improvement of the Recreation Ground was celebrated at the Odd Fellows' Hall, on Saturday. During the afternoon and evening the hall was crowded, and the proceeds made were something considerable. The fair wares were most handsomely displayed in the disposal of their tempting wares, and failed not to display the commodities to the best advantage in decorative and substantial boxes to circulate the golden medium. We hope that nearly \$2000 was taken during the two days.

TH, NOVEMBER 14, 1878
THE DARDANELLES

Some of the boating fraternity have not inaptly designated the narrow portion of the Recreation Ground Lake "The Dardanelles."

TH, NOVEMBER 18, 1878
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

THE Board met on Friday (Nov. 15), when Mr. T. King was in the chair. Present, Messrs. Collins, Davis, Hughes, and Bayler.

The Late Master.—It was resolved that the Sec. secretary write a letter to the Committee and ladies of the late bazaar thanking them for their great services on behalf of the Board: they at the same time tender their best thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who have so liberally augmented the funds of the Board by donations of money during the past nine months.

Settlement of Accounts.—The Secretary was instructed to settle the accounts of the Board as soon as possible.

Donations to the Board.—It was resolved that the Board acknowledge with thanks the donation from the Egyptian Lodge I.O.O.F., the richly decorated cane from Mr. Nevill, and the valuable assistance of Messrs. Hildall, F. W. Bayler, T. E. Schinner, W. Schinner, and other gentlemen.

Receipts of the Bazaar.—The Hon. Sec. has stated the receipts at the late bazaar to be \$207 6s. 11d. The results of the sales by auction were not included.

Boating in the Lake.—It was proposed by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Huttons, and carried, "That any persons wishing to avail themselves of the Lake for boating purposes, may do so on procuring a season ticket from the Hon. Secretary, but not otherwise. That no boating be allowed after 8 a.m."

This being whole of the business, the Board adjourned.

1879

This year saw two significant changes to the Recreation Ground Board members. John Gilmour and Thomas King both resigned being replaced by R. H. Thompson and James Davidson, respectively.

With the lake well-established there was a call to use it for recreational swimming. The town did not have a swimming pool so the water in the Recreation Ground looked very safe and inviting. After a public meeting chaired by C. W. Govett, he and Mr R. H. Thompson were charged with approaching the Board with a scheme to build a bathing house and get permission to swim in the lake. The Board agreed but stipulated that swimming would not be allowed until a bathing house was erected. Plans were drawn up by a Mr Northcroft and the building went out for tender.

The next problem was how to pay for the bathing house. The committee set up to organise the construction had managed to solicit £40 by way of subscriptions, the remainder would have to be found by other means. A couple of fundraising events were organised, one being the first swimming competition on Wednesday, April 9, 1879. The competitors had to be suitably attired in drawers and singlets and get changed in the new bathing house. The occasion drew a large crowd who sat on the banks overlooking the lake. At that time, the sides of the valley were basically treeless, so there was an excellent view of proceedings. Board member, Robert Clinton Hughes was one of the competitors.

The park is now famous for its eels and in 1879 we have our first account of eels being caught, one being about 3 feet 6 inches long and weighing in at 15lb.

In November, the Recreation Swimming Club was formed with the intention of having annual swimming competitions and swimming lessons. Newton King was on the committee. The subs were set at 2s 6d. The final act of the year was the first swimming competition arranged by the Recreation Swimming Club. The day was a huge success. The Mayor declared a public half day holiday for the occasion.

Donations during the year included shrubs from Mr Mitchinson and Muscovy ducks from Mr A. Colson.

The history of the Recreation Ground is all about people, some of whom are household names even today. Most of the early trustees were prominent townsmen. In 1879 one name stands out, Mr R. H. Thompson. He was prominent in the forming of the bathing house committee and the Swimming Club at the end of the year. Thompson who joined the Recreation Ground Board of Trustees in May was an active member of the community. He was manager of the Cash Palace (a shop in town), but he was also a town councillor, secretary of the Odd Fellows, the Garrick Club, and the Beach bathing house. He was a sergeant in the Mounted Rifle Volunteer Corps, director of the New Plymouth Gas Company and Chairman of the Public Works Committee. Sadly for the Recreation Ground Thompson left New Plymouth in 1880 when the Cash Palace closed its doors.

The final act of the year was the first swimming competition arranged by the new Swimming Club. The day was a huge success. The Mayor declared a public half holiday for the occasion.

Summary of significant events

- Swimming Club formed to erect a bathing house.
- Board gives go ahead for construction of bathing house.
- Paradise ducks released into the lake.
- Tender issued for erection of bathing house.
- Bathing house erected.
- First swimming competition in Recreation Ground's lake
- Mr. J. Gilmour resigned. Mr R. H. Thompson nominated to take his place.
- Thomas King resigned.
- Swimming club formed.
- First swimming competition organised by the swimming club.

TH, JANUARY 15, 1879
MEETING TO FORM SWIMMING CLUB

A meeting of gentlemen interested in the formation of a Swimming Club was held in the Institute last evening, "for the purpose of submitting certain propositions to the Executive Board." Mr. C. Everett presided. It was argued that the want of suitable swimming places was a very much required in New Plymouth, as, on account of storms, it was dangerous to go outside the breakers on the beach. The lake in the Recreation Ground was suggested as a desirable place, as, when full of water, it was unsuited for swimming purposes, and if certain levees were observed it need not interfere with the public use of the grounds. They expressed their willingness to construct a bathing shed on the water's edge—one that would be both useful and ornamental. It was resolved that Mr. C. W. Everett and Mr. R. H. Thompson walk upon the Board to state the views of the meeting on the subject.

TH, JANUARY 21, 1879
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A SPECIAL meeting of this Board was held on Friday. Present: Messrs. Hughes, Colson, Davis, Ford, and H. Bayly. Mr. Hughes was voted in the chair.

Referring to the Recreation Grounds.—The Hon. SECRETARY said the meeting had been called in consequence of a letter received from Messrs. C. W. Everett and R. H. Thompson, who had been requested at a public meeting to wait on the Board and advise as to what circumstances the ornamental water in the Recreation Ground could be turned open to the public for bathing purposes. There not being a full attendance of members the Board adjourned the question until next meeting.

On Saturday the Board again met, when the members were all present, Mr. King being in the chair.

After minutes read Mr. STURGEON moved, Mr. Colson seconded, and it was carried, "That Messrs. Everett and Thompson, representing the public meeting mentioned in their letter to the Board, be privileged to erect a new bathing house by the water's edge, the house to be used free of charge by the public before the hour of 3 o'clock in the morning, but to be subject to the absolute control of the Board, both as regards its use and the conduct generally of persons occupying there. The Board strictly prohibits all bathing until the house is erected."

The Board then adjourned.

TH, JANUARY 23, 1879
SWIMMING CLUB MEETING

RECREATION GROUNDS BATHING HOUSES

THE PUBLIC are requested to ATTEND a MEETING at the Institute to-morrow Evening, at 7 o'clock, to hear the report of the undersigned, and to appoint a Committee.

C. W. EVERETT,
R. H. THOMPSON.

1879

TH, JANUARY 25, 1879
BATHING HOUSE MEETING

A meeting was held last night at the Institute, when a committee, consisting of Messrs. Thompson, Colson, Edmunds, Goveett, Olliver, Honeyfield, and Lee, with power to add to their number, was appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the expediency of erecting a free, ornamental bathing house in the Recreation Ground. The Committee met again next Friday for the purpose of reporting thereon, and they invite the public to be present. We may say that we heartily wish the Committee every success, and trust that the erection of the shed will be accomplished without delay, as it would be difficult to find a shed of water better suited for swimming purposes than that in the Recreation Ground.

TH, JANUARY 31, 1879
BATHING HOUSE MEETING

We see that the Committee who have been collecting subscriptions in aid of the Free Ornamental Bathing-house in the Recreation Ground, invite the public to be present at a meeting to be held to-night in the Institute. There appears now no doubt that the erection of the house will be proceeded with, and it is hoped that the public will render in good measure, and give the Committee the advantage of any useful suggestions they may have to make.

TH, FEBRUARY 1, 1879
BATHING HOUSE TO PROCEED

The Committee who have been collecting subscriptions in aid of the Free Ornamental Bathing-house in the Recreation Ground, called a meeting last night in the Institute, when it was decided that the erection of the house should be proceeded with, and it is hoped that the public will assist by adding to the subscription list, which already amounts to £45. Mr. Brown volunteered to design a building suitable for the purpose, from which working plans will be made. The proposed building is to be sixteen feet square, with a verandah running round it six feet wide. The roof will be of the pagoda shape, and of iron, and the whole when completed and neatly painted will be an ornament to the place. Messrs. G. H. Hancock, Edmunds, and Thompson, were requested to carry out the wishes of the meeting, and Mr. R. Thompson was elected Secretary and Treasurer. As the building is for the use of the public, everyone should contribute their mite towards its erection.

TH, FEBRUARY 8, 1879
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Board was held in the Institute last evening, there being present Mr. Hughes (in the chair), Messrs. Colson, Ford, and Davis. On the motion of Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Davis, it was resolved, "That a man be employed, under the supervision of Mr. Colson, to dig a trench from the pool, through the swamp, to the bridge below Brecklecker's, in order to drain the stream." The rules of the Auckland Domain were read and approved of. Mr. Colson undertook to act as overseer of works during the present month.

HT, FEBRUARY 12, 1879
BATHING HOUSE PLANS

We are informed that Mr. Northcott has kindly promised to prepare the working plans of the bathing shed in the Recreation Ground. The Committee trust that further subscriptions will yet come in, so as to enable a building to be erected shortly of the place. Teachers will shortly be called for, and a swimming match probably held as soon as the building is completed.

TH, MARCH 4, 1879
PARADISE DUCKS RELEASED IN LAKE

The Hon. Secretary to the Recreation Ground Board (Mr. R. Bayly), let loose to-day on the ornamental water in the Recreation Ground, several Paradise Ducks, the gift of a gentleman who takes great interest in all matters connected with acclimatization. We trust that persons visiting the gardens will take notice of a warning published in another column, and not take their dogs with them, or the animals will be liable to be destroyed.

TH, MARCH 6, 1879
BATHING HOUSE TENDER

ORNAMENTAL BATHING HOUSE.

TENDERS will be received up to 4 o'clock on Wednesday next for the ERECTION of an ORNAMENTAL BATHING-HOUSE in the Recreation Grounds. Plans and specifications to be seen at my office. The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

G. W. EVERETT,
per Secretary.

TH, MARCH 11, 1879
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

THE Board met on Saturday at 7 p.m., when the Chairman (Mr. T. King) presided. Present: Messrs. Hughes, Colson, Davis, Ford, and Bayly.

The Yearly Accounts.—The Secretary read the receipts and disbursements for the past year, as follows:—

—On the motion of Mr. FORD, seconded by Mr. COLSON, the balance-sheet as read was adopted.

Another.—On the motion of Mr. STURGEON, seconded by Mr. FORD, it was resolved that a vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Northcott auditing the accounts, and that he be requested to accept a small gratuity for his services.

By-laws.—The Hon. Secretary then read a copy of the by-laws to be adopted for the protection of the grounds.—It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. COLSON, seconded by Mr. FORD, "That the rules as read be adopted, subject to the sanction of the Governor, and that the Hon. Secretary be requested to forward a copy of the same for approval as soon as possible."

Overseer.—The Board appointed Mr. Davis as overseer for the period ending 31st April next.

Planting Areas.—It was resolved that the member of the Board in charge should instruct the caretaker to prepare a piece of ground for planting areas.

The Board then adjourned.

The Board then adjourned.

	A. S. D.	A. S. D.
Printing, &c.	...	6 16 8
Expenses of banquet	24 7 4	
Rent of Hall for do.	8 18 0	
		33 0 8
Labor—Gardening	29 4 4	
Do.	181 19 0	
Carpeting work by do.	1 15 4	
Planting trees	13 18 0	
		225 17 8
Trailer and cartage	...	18 1 0
Taxes	...	0 4 0
Telephone	...	0 15 4
Postage	...	5 6 7
Insurance	...	1 19 0
Telephone	...	1 4 0
Cashier, twelve weeks' salary	...	12 0 0
Expenses of records	...	100 0 0
Interest and stamps	...	0 30 0

	A. S. D.	A. S. D.
Balance in Bank, Dec. 31, 1877	...	18 12 7
Cash overdraft at Bank	...	184 0 0
Borough Council vote	...	50 0 0
Do.	...	30 12 0
Proceeds of banquet	...	185 4 30
Balance of overdraft at Bank	...	17 1 0

**TH, MARCH 28, 1879
ERECTION OF BATHING HOUSE**

**RECREATION GROUNDS ORNAMENTAL
BATHING HOUSE.**

THE agreement having been signed for the ERECTION of the above, and as the work is to be completed in four weeks, the Comanding Committee will COLLECT AT ONCE all subscriptions promised.

H. H. THOMPSON,

Secy. &c.

Hon. Sec.

**TH, APRIL 8, 1879
FUNDRAISING**

ODD FELLOWS' HALL.

GARRICK CLUB

GRAND DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE

in aid of the Recreation Grounds Ornamental Free Bathing House,

TOMORROW, APRIL 9.

Under the patronage and presence of the Chairman and members of the Recreation Grounds Board; also the President, Vice President, and members of the Taranaki Amateur Athletic Club.

PROGRAMME:

Tom Taylor's Sporting Comedy of "STILL WATERS RUN DEEP," and the Piece of the

ROUGH DIAMOND,

never before played in Taranaki.

Miss MARIE WILTON

and Miss MAY HILL

will appear in both pieces.

During the evening the prizes won at the Athletic Sports, and in the Swimming Competition will be presented to the Successful Competitors.

Admission—Front Seats, 5s.; Back Seats, 3s.; Gallery, 1s.

Doors open at 7.30; tickets in list at B. Box Office at Mr. Drew's.

H. H. THOMPSON,

614 a B.

Hon. Sec.

**TH, APRIL 1, 1879
BATHING HOUSE UPDATE**

According to arrangements the ornamental bathing shed in the Recreation Ground is to be completed in a month's time if fine weather continues. As the cost will exceed what was at first anticipated, the Committee are engaging swimming machines to take place on the lagoon tomorrow week.

TH, APRIL 7, 1879

SWIMMING COMPETITION.

A PUBLIC SWIMMING COMPETITION will be held in the Recreation Grounds Ornamental Water on WEDNESDAY next, the 9th instant. The racing commences at 2 p.m. The Band will be in attendance.

H. H. THOMPSON,

609 a B.

Hon. Sec.

TH, APRIL 10, 1879

FIRST SWIMMING COMPETITION

The excellent facilities which nature has afforded are enhanced with the artificial power of healthy exercise, and becoming more and more appreciated by ourselves as our habits of civilization denude the system. The drive upon which the first settlers based (we will not be particular as to say the identical spot) is a subject of regard to the people—they love to walk upon it, and a large number take a special delight in walking through its angry breakers and accumulating a crop of the berry. The bathers were not limited to rock—batter and gneiss was going at their own bows and experiencing the pleasant sensation of a well water immersion. A shed was put up for stippling and changing in, but while holding under such circumstances was very pleasant, a good practical benefit was found to be wanting—it was the wrong school to study the art of swimming. One or two handsome ones (perhaps were 500-lb) than company have come out a long distance as to get into smooth water, but there was always the fearful risk of sharks and currents attending such adventures here. However, a number of gentlemen who have taken the most active interest in aquatic pastimes and on the spot have secured a suitable place for swimming in, and described that as better place could be had than the ornamental lagoon in the Recreation Ground. Its dimensions and depth of water were all that could be desired, and accordingly negotiations were opened with the Recreation Board, a satisfactory conclusion being arrived at. The bathing people were to put up a shed suitable to their own purposes and arrangement to the ground, an agreement, which everyone who has seen the pretty swim-like structure on the banks of the lagoon, will not be disposed to deny. To delay the cost of this, subscription lists were opened, and to support the bank raised by this means, a swimming tournament was arranged to take place yesterday afternoon. A committee, consisting of Messrs. C. W. Gault, G. D. Hargrove, J. G. Adams, J. A. Edwards, and H. H. Thompson, was appointed to carry this out, and however slight their expectations may have been the result must have exceeded them. The patronage of the ladies was greatly derided on, and every care was taken that there should be nothing embarrassing about the proceedings. The day was beautifully fine, and as the hour, under the leadership of Mr. Hargrove, had afforded its services, the event attracted a large number to the ground. The time appointed for the first race was 2 o'clock, and at that time there was a numerous concourse of spectators; the hills and banks of the lake being excellent viewing ground for calculation.

Appended are the results of the different events—

Swimming Race, for boys under 15. Distance, 75 yards. First prize, riding whip; second prize, set of mathematical instruments.

A. Cameron	...	...	...	...	1
W. Broad	...	...	...	...	2

W. Halford also joined in to make a race, but, being over the age, he would not claim a prize, although he came in second.

ALL-GIRLS' RACE, 200 yards. First prize, a Detroit's cap; second prize, swimming costume.

H. Scott	...	...	...	...	1
J. C. Adams	...	...	...	...	2
— Brewer	...	...	...	...	3

Messrs. Hughes, Bartley, Cook, Scott, and Lenahan also competed. This was a splendid contest, and, but for December getting a violent kick on the forehead at starting, which staggered him for a moment, he would no doubt have been the victor. Captain Halford got them well away together; and, watching steadily the swimmers referred to, there was a tough struggle between Adams, Scott, and Brewer. The latter was in a leading position at the finish.

LADS' DIVING, for boys under 15. First prize, pair of spurs; second prize, box of figs.

Cameron	...	...	...	...	1
W. Halford	...	...	...	...	2
Do.	...	...	...	...	3

There were ten other competitors.

SWIMMING RACE, 100 yards. First prize, second harmonium; second prize, letter notes.

Brewer	...	...	...	...	1
Scott	...	...	...	...	2
Hughes	...	...	...	...	3

Edwards also competed. This was a very interesting event. Brewer went away with the lead on a steady side stroke; Hughes, breast stroke, and Scott, side stroke following him close. Edwards turned on his back after fifty yards, and made it at the hundred and fifty. The others maintained pretty well the same positions; Brewer increasing his lead and winning by over fifty yards. It was a close finish between Scott and Hughes. Time, 11 minutes.

LADS' DIVE, all rounds. First prize, silver stick; second prize, performance's work-basket.

Scott	...	...	...	...	1
Brewer	...	...	...	...	2

Edwards also competed. The sports ended by Master W. Halford walking across the lagoon on a rope, and an aquatic tournament, in which there was an all round display of buoy swimming, ornamental leaping, and diving.

A B. was taken at Otago; the contributions being voluntary.

In the evening the Garrick Club gave a dramatic performance at the Odd Fellows' Hall, which was a great success; the report, however, we have to hold over till tomorrow.

**TH, APRIL 23, 1879
FUNDRAISING**

Amusements.

**FANCY DRESS
RINKING CARNIVAL,
12 AND UP THE**

Recreation Grounds Ornamental Free Bathing-house.

The above will be held in the ODD FELLOWS' HALL

FRIDAY, MAY 9.

Admission—For Hinkins (by Ticket only), 1s.; Visitors, 1s., payable at the door.

A HAND WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE.

G. D. HAMBERTON,

108 wa 12 B

Hon. Sec.

TH, APRIL 11, 1879
FUNDRAISING ENTERTAINMENT

Our Wednesday evening and Saturday Club gave a dramatic performance at the Old Fellows' Hall in aid of the Building-fund. The entertainment was under the patronage of the Librarians and members of the Recreation Board; also the President, Vice-President, and members of the Torunaki Amateur Athletic Club, the audience being a large and appreciative one. A tempting programme had been arranged, consisting of Tom Taylor's sparkling three-act comedy, "THE WARRIOR FROM DEEP," and the farce of "The Rough Diamond." The first piece is a great effort for amateurs, requiring, as it does, a strict rendition of the phonology peculiar to each character, and an assumption of impudence beyond a mere voluntary rehearsal of the name. Judging it as the whole it was well played. Its critic's measure is to be hypercritical, for there is no fault to be ascribed which should be made to them. The Club was fortunate in securing the services of two professional ladies (Miss Marie Wilson and Miss May Bell), and to the splendid play of the former it is to be added much of the confidence infused into the action. From first to last Miss Marie Wilson played with an abandon and ease which kept the party from lagging. Miss Bell, who was suffering from indisposition, and performed her part to prevent disappointment, was graceful and pleasing as Mrs. Miskin. The part of John Miskin is exceedingly trying—it is entirely free from demonstration, and it requires a consistency of mind and firm delivery to avoid monotony. For its impudence Mr. G. D. Whitehead was met; and, after having overcome a little nervousness in the first act, he warmed up and gave an excellent delineation of the spirit, fervent enthusiasm was his. He was humorously applauded at the finish. Mr. J. T. V. Kibby played Captain Boreader to the life. His object was to show in his meditations in coping the apparently un-suspecting Military was equal to any. Mr. Patten found an excellent representative in Mr. Anala, who is a really clever old-time actor; and the other parts were satisfactorily filled by Brown, Newman, Adams, Ogilvie, and MacL.

During the interval which followed, Mrs. W. Carrisay presented the prizes to the successful competitors in the athletic sports and swimming competition.

The farce of "The Rough Diamond" was equally played, each one thoroughly entering into his and her part. Miss Wilson, Miss Bell, Messrs. H. Humphries, J. C. Adams, J. C. Ogilvie, and H. H. Thompson appeared in it, and acquitted themselves so well that it would be injustice to particularise. The gross proceeds of the entertainment were £25.

TH, MAY 17, 1879
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The ordinary meeting of the above board was held last night (May 16). Present: Messrs. Colson, Davis, Ford, and Hughes. In the absence of the Chairman (Mr. T. King), Mr. R. Hughes presided.

Resignation.—Notice of Mr. Gilmour's resignation was read and accepted.
New Member :- Proposed by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Ford and carried, "That Mr. R. H. Thompson be recom-

Loan:- An application was read from the Bathing House Committee for a loan of £9 12s.

Proposed by Mr. Colson and seconded by Mr. Davis and carried. "That the thanks of the Board be presented to the Bathing House Committee for the successful exertions in reference to the erection of the Bathing House, and that the Board advance the money as requested for the payment of outstanding accounts."

TH, JULY 8, 1879
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

This Board met on the 8th July. Present: Messrs. Colson, Hughes, Davis, and Bayley.—In the absence of Mr. King, Mr. H. Ford was voted to the chair.

Business.—The Hon. Secy. read a letter from the Colonial Secretary including a cheque, in which the by-laws of the Board were published.—It was resolved that they be inserted verbatim in each of the local papers.

Donations.—It was resolved "That the thanks of the Board be tendered to Mr. J. Colson for his present of two Muncsey clocks, and to Mr. Miskin for his donation of marks."

Care of the Grounds.—Mr. Colson agreed to take charge of the grounds for the current month.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, JULY 9, 1879
R H THOMPSON JOINS BOARD

His Excellency, by Proclamation in the Government Gazette, has appointed Mr. Bayley Judge Thompson to be a Member of the Board of Trustees for Public Recreation, in the room of Mr. John Gilmour, resigned.

TH, JULY 9, 1879
BOROUGH COUNCIL DONATION

Botanical Garden's Donation.—The Treasurer was authorized in reply to an application from the Secretary of the Botanical Garden Board, to pay the annual donation of £20.—Mr. Colson said he believed that there was some excellent material in the Botanical Garden, and if they gave the donation he thought they should have permission to get it on the same terms as at other places. He had heard it said that the Botanical Garden Board were not inclined to let these ferns &c.—The Mayor said they would have to trust to the Board's generosity.

TH, OCTOBER 1, 1879
EELS IN THE LAKE

We were shown yesterday a large eel, measuring about 3 feet 4 inches long, and weighing over 15 lbs., which had been caught in the lagoon at the Recreation Grounds. Another eel, not quite so large, was caught at the same time and place.



BY APPOINTMENT TO THE TORUNAKI BOTANICAL GARDENS BOARD, NEW ZEALAND.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, June 10, 1879.

THE following bye-laws made by the Board of Trustees for Public Recreation at New Plymouth are published in accordance with the provisions of "The Torunaki Botanical Garden Act, 1877."

G. H. WILKINSON.

BYE-LAWS.

1. It shall be lawful to take or admit any dog into the grounds, and any dog found in the same shall be shot or otherwise destroyed.
2. No person may put up or erect a swing in any part of the grounds, unless with permission in writing of the Board.
3. No person may erect or keep any stall or booth, unless with the permission in writing of the Board.
4. Any person acting under the authority of the Board may summarily prevent the erection of, or remove or pull down, any stall or booth which shall be put up, or put up, contrary to the above by-laws.
5. No person may drink or get up any fire.
6. No person may fish in the lake or in any part of the stream that runs through the grounds, or set night lines, without the permission in writing of the Board.
7. No shooting shall be allowed after 8 o'clock P.M.
8. No children will be allowed admission to the grounds, unless accompanied by an adult.
9. No person will be allowed to pass through the grounds after dark, with the exception of those residing in the grounds.
10. It shall be lawful for the Board, or the occupier of lot or all other gatherings held under the auspices or authority of the Board, to impose or authorize the imposition of charges for admission to the ground.
11. Any person who shall be convicted of any breach of any of the above by-laws shall be liable to a penalty of not less than one shilling and not exceeding five pounds.
12. These by-laws shall come into operation on the 1st August, 1879.

H. BAYLEY,
Clerk to the Hon. Secy. and Treasurer.

TH, OCTOBER 6, 1879
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

This Board met on Friday last, the 6th October, at 7 p.m., at the Institute. Present: Messrs. Davis (in the chair), Hughes, Thompson, Harris Ford, and Bayley.

Resignation.—The Secretary read a letter from V. King, Esq., resigning his resignation as a Member of the Board.—A resolution was passed acknowledging the receipt of the letter, and expressing the regret of the Board for the loss of Mr. King's services.

Care of the Grounds.—Mr. Hughes was appointed overseer of works for the current month.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, NOVEMBER 3, 1879
MEETING TO FORM SWIMMING CLUB

SWIMMING CLUB.

A MEETING of those interested in the formation of a Swimming Club is in connection with the Ornamental Water in the Recreation Ground will be held (by kind permission of the Mayor) in the Council Chamber, on Wednesday Evening next, at 7.30.

1879—h. h.

J. C. ADAMS.

**TH, NOVEMBER 7, 1879
SWIMMING CLUB FORMED**

A MEETING was held on Wednesday in the Council Chamber for the purpose of forming a swimming club in connection with the recreational board in the Recreation Grounds, a number of gentlemen being present. Mr. H. H. Thompson was voted in the chair. Mr. Thompson then read the advertisement calling the meeting, and asked Mr. Adams, whose name appeared in the advertisement, to give his views and explain his reasons for calling the meeting.

Mr. ADAMS said he with several other gentlemen had seen the necessity of having a swimming club, as by forming a club they would give the rising generation an opportunity of learning to swim, for in conjunction with the club there would be suitable appliances to instruct beginners in the art of swimming; also that a swimming club was a source of amusement to the public, as they held swimming races weekly. His then proposed "That a swimming club be formed." This was seconded by Mr. Nichol.

Mr. KITCHENS agreed with Mr. Adams' proposition, and thought that the subscription should not be fixed at too high a rate, as it would deter young people from becoming members. He thought that an annual subscription of 2s. 6d. would be sufficient, as by making it 2s. 6d. they would get three members to one at 1s. Mr. Adams' proposition was then put and carried.

Mr. KITCHENS then proposed "The annual subscription be fixed at 2s. 6d."—Seconded by Mr. THOMPSON, and carried.

It was then proposed by Mr. NICHOL, and seconded by Mr. THOMPSON, "That the following gentlemen form a committee for the purpose of forwarding the interests of the club:—Adams, Thompson, Nichol, Kitchens, Norman, Powell, Hider and Nichol."—Carried.

Proposed by Mr. THOMPSON, "That Mr. Kitchens be secretary and treasurer."—Carried.

The committee then decided to meet on Wednesday the 12th to report progress. The meeting then closed.

TH, DECEMBER 5, 1879

**RECREATION SWIMMING CLUB
COMPETITION.**

To be held on Wednesday, December 10.

President: Dr. McCarroll. **Judge:** Major Hugh Stanger. **Captain:** Herbert. **Committee:** Messrs. G. W. Howell, S. King, E. H. Thompson, W. L. Norman, J. C. Adams, J. Nichol, and J. A. Kitchens. **Referee:** Judge Shaw, and H. H. Thompson, Secy.

PROGRAMME:

1. Swimming Race for boys under 14; 20 yards. 1st prize, Marble Lantern; 2nd prize, Box and Gold Ring.
2. Champion Race; 100 yards. 1st prize, a Handsome Book; 2nd prize, Travelling Bag.
3. Swimming Race for boys under 16; 200 yards. 1st prize, Wallpaper Watch; 2nd prize, Washing Machine.
4. Champion Half-mile. 1st prize, Dressing Case; 2nd prize, Handsome Book; 3rd prize, Ornamental Pendant.
5. Long Dive for boys under 16. Prize, Cricket Bat.
6. Champion 200 Yards. 1st prize, Album; 2nd prize, Inkstand.
7. Long Dive. Prize, Gold Neck Ring.
8. Ornamental Diving and Swimming. 1st prize, Opera Glass; 2nd prize, Cricket Bat.

9. Tub Race. Prize, Bag of Flour, winner to carry it home. Each competitor to provide his own tub; paddles, etc. and oars.

10. Tidy of the Lake, with Kite and Aquatic markers.

Prizes for each event, 1s. Post entries. Duration of Races to be fixed when disputes arise.

There to compete in each race, an no prize will be given.

None but members of the Recreation Grounds Swimming Club will be allowed to compete.

Bathing drawers and slippers must in every instance be worn by the competitors.

JOHN A. KITCHENS,
Hon. Secy.

**TH, DECEMBER 11, 1879
SWIMMING CLUB COMP RESULTS**

AQUATIC RESULTS.

President: Dr. O'Connell. **Judge:** Major Hugh Stanger. **Captain:** Herbert. **Committee:** Messrs. G. W. Howell, S. King, E. H. Thompson, W. L. Norman, J. C. Adams, J. Nichol, and J. A. Kitchens. **Referee:** Judge Shaw, and H. Thompson, Secy.

THE Recreation Swimming Club held a competition yesterday on the lake in the Recreation Ground. The Committee were exceedingly in their efforts to make the Aquatic Sports a success, and they must have been thoroughly gratified at the result of their labours. A public half-holiday was proclaimed by His Worship the Mayor, which was heartily responded to by the principal phases of business in town, and the afternoon being free a large number of spectators visited the Ground. Major Stanger acted as judge, and Mr. J. A. Kitchens as secretary. The arrangements made were all that could be desired, and the course for the various matches was marked off with caution, and in such a manner as to make it almost impossible that a mistake could be made. Mr. Thompson did good service—providing the competitors in a boat, and picking them round the course. The level of the Mounted Rifle was in accordance, and several swimming matches at intervals during the afternoon, which contributed in no small measure to the enjoyment of the public. No change of admission was made at the gates, but subscriptions in aid of the funds of the Club were collected. The first event was—

Swimming Race for boys under 14; 20 yards. 1st prize, Marble Lantern; 2nd prize, Box and Gold Ring.
A. Hagley, 1; Herbert, 2; Williams, 3. This race was well contested.

Champion Race, 100 yards. 1st prize, a Handsome Book; 2nd prize, Travelling Bag.
Wall, 1; Scott, 2; Gray, 3; Brewster, 4; Cooper, 5; Wilson, 6. A good start was effected, and, after a few strokes, Wall came to the front, and maintained the lead till the finish, missing only once. A close contest took place between Scott and Gray for second place, Scott leading by a few strokes.

Swimming Race for boys under 16; 200 yards. 1st prize, Wallpaper Watch; 2nd prize, Washing machine.
Perry, 1; Herbert, 2; Head, 3; Hagley, 4. This event was won handsomely by Perry, who led it all his own way from the start. The contest for second place was spirited.

Champion Half-mile. 1st prize, Dressing Case; 2nd prize, Handsome Book; 3rd prize, Ornamental Pendant.
Scott, 1st; Cooper, 2nd; Storkley, 3rd; Hughes, 4; Baker, 5; Giblin, 6; Armstrong, 7; Speck, 8; Brewster, 9; Herbert, 10; Head, 11; Bowden, 12. This was an excellent race, and, at the finish, created great excitement. Cooper led after the 1st lap until within a few strokes of the finish, when Scott put in a spurt and won with very little to spare. Scott used the side stroke apparently throughout the race, but Cooper only

occasionally tried the side stroke, and always lost ground when he did so. The struggle for third place was keen.

Long Dive for boys under 16. Prize, Cricket Bat.
Williams, 1; Hagley, 2nd; Herbert, 3; Ford, 4. The diving was very creditable.

Champion 200 Yards. 1st prize, Album; 2nd prize, Inkstand.
Wall, 1st; Scott, 2nd; Carrington, 3rd; Cornish, 4; McLaughlin, 5. This was not exciting, as Wall led from the start, and did not give the others a chance.

Long Dive. Prize, Gold Neck Ring.
Gray, 1; Brown, 2; Gray, 3; Norman, 4; Giblin, 5; S. Hamilton, 6; Scott, 7. Gray and Brown were nearly equal.

Ornamental Diving and Swimming. 1st prize, Opera Glass; 2nd prize, Cricket Bat.
Thompson, 1; Adams, 2; Norman, 3. This event gave the judge some trouble to decide, the competition being so well matched.

The Tub Race set down in the programme did not take place, no one having obeyed the condition imposed of bringing his own tub.

The event called the Lady of the Lake was very interesting. Many of the competitors were dressed in the most imposing costumes, and had tubes, etc. to lighten their vessels in order to bear some resemblance to Zebra. The Lady of the Lake was dressed with the object of display, and certainly the object was attained. The event appeared to be almost "dashed" the other week. This closed a most enjoyable day's amusement, and we think aquatic sports of this description, such as reported at suitable intervals, affording pleasure to the public and the best of practice for the competitors.

**TH, DECEMBER 12, 1879
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Board met on Monday at 7 p.m. Present: Mr. Hughes (in the chair), Messrs. Cohen, Davis, Ford, Thomas, and Hagley.

Correspondence.—The Hon. Mr. Grey read correspondence from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, and from Mr. T. Kelly, M.H.R.

Mr. Gilmore's Application.—On Mr. Gilmore's application being again brought forward, (as applications were placed before the meeting, but neither being considered satisfactory, the matter was postponed).

Read of New Zealand Overights.—Mr. Fowler proposed, and Mr. Cohen seconded, "That in every acquisition be invited by the Board with the exception of the water-gate colony, pending the application of the overights at the Bank of New Zealand."—Carried.

Mr. Davis was appointed secretary for December.

1880

This was a quiet year regarding progress. The Board found itself in a financial crisis and not able to do a lot of work in the grounds. The debt was troubling because the trustees were personally responsible for any debts incurred. They did receive a couple of cash injections, one by way of a lecture by Sir William Fox, (former Prime Minister on four occasions) who gave an account of his travels in Palestine and the Holy Lands at the Odd Fellows Hall.

The financial situation was desperate, and the Board went cap in hand to the Borough Council to get a subsidy. The council considered it, then rejected the plea. Councillor Nicoll wanted to table a motion that the council take over the running of the Recreation Ground. This motion was later withdrawn because Nicoll became aware that the Recreation Ground Board of Trustees would not step down. The reality was, the Borough Council had no legal authority to take over the Recreation Grounds.

In the Act that set up the grounds, Article 18 stated that, “The Governor may on the petition of the majority of the members for the time being of the Board, or of two-thirds of the rate-payers of the Borough of New Plymouth, dissolve the said board, and on such dissolution the said lands vested by this Act shall vest in the Borough of New Plymouth, and be managed by the said Borough as the Board is authorized to manage the said lands.” In later years, the Recreation Board would use this to try and extract money from the council by threatening to hand over the grounds to the Borough Council if they did not give a grant for the running of the grounds.

The Recreation Swimming Club organised an Autumn competition on March 3. The morning was not looking promising and the committee decided to postpone the event. As is often the case in New Plymouth the weather changed, and the committee decided to go ahead again. To inform the towns people they employed the services of the town crier. The competition had some interesting events, such as a blindfold race, “washerwoman’s surprise”, but the event that stands out is the diving competition won by R. C. Hughes. Hughes was a keen swimmer and member of the Board of Trustees for about 60 years.

Donations this year, included plants from Mr G. E. Duncan, pine seeds from the Geological Department, and water lilies from Mr Johnson of Christchurch. The board also received 200 trout ova to be released into the lake.

Summary of significant events

- Plant donations from Mr George Duncan.
- Captain Davidson appointed to Board in place of Thomas King.
- The Board agrees to set aside a portion of the lake for ladies bathing.
- A motion to take over control of the Recreation Grounds tabled in the Borough Council meeting then later withdrawn.
- Receipt of *Vitis californica* seeds.
- Trout ova received for the Recreation Grounds lake.
- Recreation Grounds presented with Water Lilies.



James Thomas Davis 1833 - 1891 (Puke Ariki PHO2012-0503)

Davis was a Trustee of the Recreation Ground from its inception until his unfortunate death in 1891. Davis owned an ironmongers business on Devon Street. He was an active member of society. He served on the Town Board, the Borough Council, prominent member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, Fire Inspector, member of the Horticultural Society, steward of the Jockey Club and various other committees.

**TH, JANUARY 3, 1880
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Board met last evening. Present: Messrs. Coburn (in the chair), Hughes, Harris, Frost, and Thompson.

Report of Sleight.—The thanks of the Board were tendered to Mr. G. E. Dumas for his kind and pleasant presence at the club.

The Lake Question.—Mr. Thompson proposed, and Mr. Harris seconded: "That the Secretary be instructed to have the ladies who kindly visited on the late dinner to meet the Board in the Grand Chamber to discuss the mode of best utilizing the ground and money that remains over from the dinner."—Carried.

Consent of Green-Up.—Mr. Coburn was appointed Treasurer for the present season.

**TH, JANUARY 5, 1880
TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT**

The Trustees of the Government has appointed Mr. James Davidson to be a member of the Public Recreation Board, vice Mr. T. King, resigned.

**TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1880
SWIMMING CLUB MEETING**

The members of the Recreation Ground Bathing Club held a very well-attended meeting last night, of which Mr. C. W. Garrett was chairman. The Secretary presented a balance-sheet, showing the sum of £3 17s. 4d. in hand, with liabilities amounting to £2, which was adopted. On a ballot being taken, the following committee were elected: Messrs. Baker, Brewster, Smith, N. King, Ray, and Dr. Wilson. It was decided to hold swimming matches on Wednesday, the 2nd March. After some discussion it was voted that the prizes should be given on the ground at the close of the matches. A vote of thanks was given to the Secretary for his valuable services in connection with the club, and to the Chairman. After the general meeting, the newly-elected committee held a long and important meeting, and drew up the programme, particulars of which will be published shortly. The Secretary (Mr. E. Smith) was appointed treasurer.

**TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1880
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Recreation Board held a meeting last night, when it was brought under the notice of the Board that the ladies of New Plymouth were desirous of having the use of part of the lake in the Recreation Ground for bathing, as the beach was not sufficiently wide. The Board resolved to have part of the lake enclosed by a wire fence to be not apart for the use of the ladies in future.

**TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1880
FUNDRAISING**

**OLD FELLOWS HALL,
THU AND FRI FEBRUARY,**

THE GARRICK CLUB

(under the management of Mr. G. W. HUGHES) will appear on the stage in aid of the Funds of the Recreation Grounds.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

Will be produced the melodrama, **Conroy,**

O'Callaghan on his Last Legs.

To be followed by **TOMMIES.**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10,
BLACK-EYED SUSAN**

To be followed by **THE HAPPY MAN.**

Full particulars and cost in *Exp.* 11th. 247111

**TH, FEBRUARY 16, 1880
GOVERNMENT DONATION**

Five members of the Botanical Garden Board with a view of keeping the Recreation Ground in order, have incurred a debt of £170, for which the members are personally liable. There being a vote of money voted by Parliament for Botanical Gardens, Mr. Kelly, M.P., applied to the Government for a portion of it for New Plymouth, and on Saturday last received the following reply:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, February 5th, 1880.

T. KEENE, Esq.—
Dear Sir.—I have received your letter of the 2nd instant. The vote for the Botanical Gardens will be divided without delay, and £100 given to the New Plymouth Garden.—I am, &c.

JOHN HALL.

The Government has acted very generously we think, in giving such a large sum out of the vote, and have been assisted, no doubt by a desire to help the members of the Board out of their difficulties. It is for the public to do the remainder, and although there are not the times to give money away, still if one or two of your prominent citizens on a successful evening were got up, a small amount being allowed for a tribune in the grounds, the sum owing would soon be cleared off.

**TH, MARCH 4, 1880
SWIMMING COMP RESULTS**

**RECREATION GROUND'S
SWIMMING CLUB.**

President: Dr. O'Connor. Vice-President: Major Stagg. Judge: Major Tait. Secretary: Captain Halliday. Messengers: J. B. Edwards. Committee: Messrs. J. K. Brewster, C. Stewart, Dr. Wilson, N. King, A. Baker, and J. B. Ray.

The Annual Meeting of the above Club was held yesterday, on the ornamental water of the Recreation Grounds. At first the day appeared a very promising one, and the Committee decided to adjourn the aquatic sports for a week, but towards noon a decided improvement in the weather occurred, and it was thought advisable to go on with the sports. The current of the river after being accordingly retained to inform the public that the programme of the day's amusements would be commenced at 2 p.m. At the hour

appointed there was a wonderfully good attendance of spectators and competitors on the grounds, and as the afternoon advanced with a kindly gathering was present to witness the various competitions. The day had not been pronounced a public holiday, but some of the pleasure of business closed, starting from the river every afternoon of the day, they appeared to have taken a lively interest in the day's proceedings, so much so that the "waterman's surprise" occurred in the programme having an unusual number of interest for them. We need not say lady who appeared to see the event with interest by herself, and not only spectators. The object of the lady when she discovered her mistake, her description. The incident was a novelty, producing very general comment during the contest, and the same remark applies to the trial race, in walking costume. The Champion Half-mile Handicap was well contested. In the better stroke Watt was the favorite, his usual stroke being on a better occasion completely vanquished all his rivals. He expected himself very creditably yesterday, but was compelled to yield the palm to Baker. The Champion Dive for adults was another event which attracted much notice—two of the rivals (Messrs. Hughes and Baker) being well matched. Mr. B. Hughes eventually proved the victor, diving the distance of forty-six yards. He was handsomely rewarded for accomplishing this unusually deep feat. The 100 yards race was won by Watt, whose chance from the start was never seriously endangered. At the conclusion of the competition the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Wilson, who performed her duties in a pleasing and graceful manner, bestowing a few words of encouragement and commendation upon the competitors of the prizes. The committee must have been thoroughly gratified at the success which attended their efforts in forming and carrying out such an excellent programme of sports, and as necessary amusements, the swimming club will be even more popular than heretofore. Major Stagg, Major Tait, Captain Halliday and Mr. Edwards wish to thank respectively the performers of their respective duties. We append the result of each event:—

All-comer Race, for boys under 14 years; 75 yards. First, premium jar.

Baker 1
Felling 2

President's Cup Handicap, for adults; 500 yards. First prize, champagne bottle; second, dining-suit; third, silver smoking.

Baker (14-00) 1
G. Scott (14-00) 2
J. E. Brewster (14-00) 3

The race was closely contested, Baker winning by about half-a-length.

Boys' Handicap, 100 yards. First prize, silver clock; second, premium jar.

Baker (14-00) 1
W. Halliday (14-00) 2

Ladies' Prize, for adults; 300 yards. First prize, champagne bottle; second, silver clock.

Watt 1
Stagg 2
Hughes 3

Long Dive for boys under 17 years. First, champagne bottle; second, silver clock.

Birkby (14-00) 1
Williams 2

Waterman's Surprise, in tank; 50 yards. First, a clock.

Adams 1
Watt 2

The event occasioned much merriment. A protest was lodged against the release, as the tank was used, and not round.

Champion Half-mile Handicap. First prize, champagne bottle and coffee service; second, opera glass; third, premium jar.

Baker (14-00) 1
Watt (14-00) 2
Brewster (14-00) 3

Baker led after the first half lap, and maintained the lead to the close. Watt put on a "spurt" at the finish, and succeeded in putting himself on a close acquaintance with Baker. Time—24 minutes.

Shakespeare, for 100 lbs. First price, 100/-	100
100 lbs. Second, 80/-	80
100 lbs. Third, 60/-	60
100 lbs. Fourth, 40/-	40
100 lbs. Fifth, 20/-	20
100 lbs. Sixth, 10/-	10
100 lbs. Seventh, 5/-	5
100 lbs. Eighth, 2/-	2
100 lbs. Ninth, 1/-	1
100 lbs. Tenth, 0/-	0

TH, MARCH 13, 1880
FUNDRAISING
Sir William Fox Lecture

An interesting lecture was given last evening, at the Old Fellow Hall, by Sir William Fox, the subject being "Palæstina and the Holy Land." His Wonderful Master occupied the whole night, in narrating the history, and that Sir William Fox had been asked to give a lecture in aid of the Recreation Grounds, and had very readily consented to do so. The discourse required certain improvements—the large ceiling must be drained, and other necessary matters attended to—but the Board had no fault at their disposal. The object of the lecture was to assist in providing funds for carrying out these much-needed improvements.

The lecturer then engaged the attention of the audience, and gave a graphic account of his travels in Palæstina and the Holy Land. His first spoke of the journey from Bagdad to Alexandria, describing the two mentioned city with minuteness. From there he took his audience to Cairo, and then introduced them to the Nile. A three weeks journey up the Nile was depicted, all the wonders of that extraordinary river being fully related. The lecturer then made his lecture acquainted with a journey through the Desert of Sin, and gave them a description of Mount Sinai and the Holy Land. Mr. Williamson exhibited some excellent drawing views of the Holy Land, and the lecturer pointed out the places of interest, relating many incidents both amusing and interesting. In his remarks on wealth and poverty the lecturer provided irrefragable proof, and throughout the delivery of the lecture there was a vein of the humour which did not fail to please. During the evening Mr. Francis presided at the piano and gave appropriate selections in his brilliant style.

At the conclusion of the lecture a hearty vote of thanks was given to the lecturer for the able manner in which he treated his subject.

TH, MAY 5, 1880
BOARD ASKS COUNCIL FOR HELP

Deputations from Botanical Gardens Board.—A deputation from the Botanical Gardens Board waited on the Council and stated through Mr. Haggles that the Board was without funds, having no reserves, by being very excessive, and had therefore applied to the liberality of the public and the Council. The Board, however, had not had sufficient funds to carry on with, and had obtained an overdraft of the Bank, the members becoming personally liable for the amount. They had now been called upon by the Bank Manager to pay it up, and they had little or no prospect of money from the public to do so. They had accordingly come to apply to the Council for assistance. They had one man employed, whose wages were paid out of the grant given by the Council. There were 25 of his salary unpaid. It was desirable to keep him or the work they had done would soon be destroyed. Their debt was about £200.—The Mayor said the Council would consider the matter, and its decision would be communicated to them by letter.

TH, JUNE 3, 1880
LETTER TO EDITOR - FINANCIAL POSITION OF RECREATION GROUND

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—With surprise and regret I learn that the Recreation Board is in a state of complete collapse unless the public of New Plymouth come promptly and substantially to the rescue. My informant tells me they are without funds for continuing the work, and moreover, in their headless endeavours to somewhat forestall time in rendering the ground attractive, stand committed to a liability for which these gentlemen are personally responsible. Also the necessary office of custodian, that has been zealously filled by Claffey, frequenter of the grounds can testify to. This useful officer is discharged, and I am sure the consequences will be soon apparent by this promising public estate lapsing into its former state—to be again covered with furze; the thousands of ornamental trees there planted will be destroyed, and it will become a Tom Tibble's ground for all the stray cattle of the district. Now, notwithstanding the bad times, this I say would be most calamitous, and disgraceful to us as a community. The remedy is simple—a small contribution from each one will prevent its occurring. And when things look brighter we shall feel glad we made the effort, and think the money well spent in saving the birthright of our children from destruction.—I am, &c.,

Grim.

TH, JUNE 8, 1880
COUNCIL DECLINE REQUESTED HELP

Borough Council

—On the above being read it was asked if the petition of the Botanical Gardens Board had been considered.—Mr. BULLOCK and the Committee had discussed the matter, but they did not see their way to put any vote on the petition, but should they get a notice from the Government the application would be again considered.—On the motion of Mr. HAYES, seconded by Mr. HARRISON, the report of the Kilmuir Committee was adopted.

Address of Motion.—Mr. SMITH, in regard of the next meeting, "That this Borough take over the debt of the Recreation Board, and that the best be taken care by the Borough."

TH, JUNE 10, 1880
FUNDING SUGGESTION

We learn that subscription lists have been opened, and that the public are subscribing liberally, to relieve the Recreation Grounds Board from their present financial difficulty. A great proportion of their funds has been expended in planning and protecting trees and shrubs. We are not aware of the Acclimatization Society having done anything in the way of encouraging planting of useful and ornamental trees, though this is one of the objects of the Society. We think that, under the circumstances, the Society should, out of its funds, make a donation to a fund like that of the Recreation Grounds, which is practically use of its duties.

TH, JUNE 3, 1880
MOTION IN COUNCIL TO TAKE-OVER RECREATION GROUNDS

Recreation Board.—Mr. SMITH asked leave to withdraw his notice of motion re the taking over of the Recreation Grounds by the Council.—Leave granted.

TH, JUNE 28, 1880

A FLEA FOR THE RECREATION GROUNDS, NEW PLYMOUTH.

[COMMUNICATOR.]

It is a point noted by travellers, that the natural beauties which render a place interesting and attractive, and so supply many of the wants or pleasures for the tourist or stranger for the trouble of "floating," are largely of low growth and low appreciation by residents in the immediate locality; thus by those whose eyes it is that such pleasures are not always done at hand to them. This is not difficult to explain. Familiarity, even with Nature's brightest products, brings an indifference to effect, and the benefits of to-day seem but the beauties of yesterday. The stranger brings, to assist the contemplation of such objects, the freshness of an untried eye. As Shakespeare says, he "holds the mirror up to Nature," and is rewarded with a blessing unobtainable else and trifling.

The forgetting, or a pleasure, will introduce the intention of this sketch, which is intended as a plea in support of the untried eye on how to supply funds for properly keeping in order and situation our beautiful reserves for public recreation, released from a natural waste of time, but which inquiries now for what of a proper public interest being taken therein. Our nation does not give evidence of that philanthropic spirit which one sees in the parks and recreation grounds—the lungs of a city, the nearest aids to public health, and the best evidence of people's cultured tastes. The natural beauties which the wealth and magnificence of man have bestowed on European towns—the reserves which are preserved in the public interest—confirm the argument that public health and greatest advantage able by site. This locality is exceptionally favoured with natural beauties, and it is the duty of each citizen to conserve these beauties, to his own enjoyment and for the benefit of those to come after.

Two years ago, the task of winning from its natural disorder the present Recreation Ground, was undertaken by a liberal body of our inhabitants, who gave their financial attention to the work, the result of which gave a great satisfaction. Deep-set between the hills is the present splendid lake, which has been the scene of many an aquatic entertainment, the popularity of which is proved by the public interest and attendance.

And now it is with genuine regret that we see the good work stopped for want of funds, which neglect will surely allow the place to return to its primal disorder, unless the public show a proper spirit and determination about the matter. Subscription lists are now being kept to keep these grounds in order, and there is a noble current that a meeting of ladies (Heaven bless 'em) will be called for Tuesday, 28th July, to consider the best means of raising funds to carry on this necessary public work. A large house will probably be the result, and it behooves every one of our "sisters, cousins, and aunts" to take an interest in, and be present at, this meeting; and to those of the sterner sex, it is just as much their duty to assist in this good work to the best of their power, always remembering in these matters a duty as well as a pleasure; and assisting to keep these public grounds "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever."

TH, JULY 2, 1880
FUNDRAISING

THE BOTANICAL GARDENS.

A MEETING of the ladies interested in getting up a Bazaar to raise funds for the Botanical Gardens will be held in the Old-Store' Hall on **Thursday** next at 2 o'clock. (224 h j)

TH, SEPTEMBER 11, 1880
DONATION FOR BOARD

Mr. T. Kelly, M.H.R., who is Wellington, applied for a share of the vote of money for "Dunedin Bazaar" for the New Plymouth Botanical Gardens, and to-day he received a telegram from the Premier stating that £15 would be granted to New Plymouth. This amount coming so unexpectedly will put the members of the Botanical Gardens Board in quite a good spirit.

TH, SEPTEMBER 17, 1880
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A meeting of the Botanical Gardens Board was held on Tuesday evening, when it was decided to resume the work of improving the grounds, the Board trusting to the support of the public in carrying the work through. The lake will be filled in time for the bathing season, and a man has been engaged to take charge of the grounds. The Board received a large package of valuable pine seeds from the Geological Department.

TH, OCTOBER 12, 1880
SEED DONATION

The Botanical Gardens Board received yesterday from the Government a parcel of seeds of the wild rice of California (*zizania Californica*), which was sent by Mr. H. J. Creighton, of San Francisco, for propagation in New Zealand. A printed paper containing extracts from Mr. Creighton's letter, and from a pamphlet by Mr. Charles A. Waters, of San Francisco, was also received, affording valuable information with reference to the manner in which the rice was to be cultivated, and their peculiar qualities. From these accounts we learn that the rice is valuable from the fact that it is phylloxera-proof. It is found growing in California in the midst of vineyards which have been destroyed by that pest, but wholly uninjured, and experiments have shown conclusively that the *zizania Californica* is no refuge for the parasite to lay its eggs. The growing stipes of this rice is no value for making starch or rice. It contains tannin and tartaric acid, has no striking aroma, is sufficiently neutral, and has no disagreeable taste whatever.

TH, OCTOBER 12, 1880
TROUT OVA FOR RECREATION
GROUND

One thousand one hundred trout ova were landed at New Plymouth on Friday. The Botanical Gardens are to receive 200, the Hospital stream near here 400, tributaries of the Whareroa 2,500, Otago stream 1,200, and water in Stony River district.

TH, NOVEMBER 13, 1880
WATER LILY DONATION

Mr. Overhill has presented the Botanical Garden with four beautiful water-lilies, which were sent to him by Mr. A. M. Johnson, of Frostdale Farm, Opawa, Christchurch. They arrived by the ss. Turgis on Monday last, and were taken charge of by Mr. H. Dwyer, who planted them according to instructions. There are two English Bells (*Nymphaea alba*), and two *Apocynum Dactyloides*, which in two or three years' time will make the ornamental water in the garden look very pretty.



Section of a map compiled by T. K. Skinner in 1880 (Puke Ariki ARC2010-220). Skinner was the surveyor that laid out most of the paths in the park and this is probably why he added them onto his map. The paths show are probably a combination of what existed at the time of drafting the map and paths that had been planned by Reginald Bayley on his Recreation Grounds plan. This plan was not up to date as it still shows sections 1172 and 1175 as not being part of the grounds. These were both purchased by the board in 1876.

1881

The focus at the beginning of the year was fundraising. The Board found itself in debt which it needed to reduce significantly. The main fundraiser was a Fancy Fair, raising £110. The Borough Council gave a grant of £50. Another way of raising funds was the introduction of a charge for using the bathing house, a season ticket being 2s 6d.

During the year three Board members resigned, Reginald Bayley, R. H. Thompson, and Thomas Colson. They were replaced by J. B. Roy, Dr Gibbes and T. K. Skinner. The Board remained unchanged until 1885.

Until 1881 the current Sports Ground was a swamp. A decision was made to drain it and fill it with earth to create a sports field, initially for croquet, but later changed to cricket. At that time, the land around the Liardet Street Entrance was not fully developed. There was a hill outside the gate making access to the grounds difficult. A request was made to the Borough Council to remove part of the hill to fill the swamp, permission was granted to remove 2,000 yards. T K Skinner was requested to prepare a plan and specifications for the work. Mr Alfred Well was awarded the job. Work started towards the end of the year, but it took many years to get the ground looking as it does today.

It was reported that 1100 trees had been planted during the season. James Mitchinson of Caledonian Nurseries had graciously donated one thousand established plants.

Summary of significant events

- Fancy Fair fundraiser.
- Decision made to start reclaiming the swamp for croquet.
- Reginald Bayley resigns and Board recommends Mr J. B. Roy replaces him.
- R. H. Thompson's seat rendered vacant due to lack of attendance and Dr. Gibbes recommended as his replacement.
- Mr Mitchinson, offers a thousand plants to the Board.
- Thomas Colson resigns, T. K. Skinner recommended for the vacancy.
- 1100 trees planted during the season.
- Work started on reclaiming swamp.
- Plants donation from Melbourne Botanical Garden.
- Trout in Recreation Grounds.

GRAND FINAL

Promenade Concert!

THIS EVENING, January 12.

THE FINAL PROMENADE CONCERT of the Cape Regiment Band will be given in the RECREATION GROUNDS, under the patronage of his Majesty the Mayor, Major Stapp, Captain Davidson and BPs, and the Mounted Rifles and Volunteers, who will appear in uniform.

A GRAND DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS!

To commence at 7 o'clock,
ADMISSION—ONE SHILLING.
For the Committee.

To J. H. C. D. WHITCOMBE.

TH, JANUARY 15, 1881

RECREATION GROUNDS
SWIMMING CLUB.

President: Dr. Gibbes. Vice-President: Mr. E. C. Hughes. Judge: Major Stapp and Major Talm. Starter: Captain Halford. Committee: Messrs. S. King, J. H. Key, Collins, Gray, F. Carrington, Dr. Gibbes, and C. Grant.

MEETING

WEDNESDAY, February 10, 1881.
In the Executive Rooms.

PROGRAMME:

1. All-swims, for boys under 14 years; 75 yards
2. Half-mile Handicap, 800 yards
3. President's Medal Handicap, 300 yards
4. Long Dive, for boys under 18
5. Handicap, for boys under 18; 150 yards
6. Child's Medal, 200 yards
7. Water-woman's Surprise (round table), 50 yards
8. Torrance's Champion Half-mile (all-swims), 800 yards
9. Champion Dive
10. Boys' Race, 200 yards
11. Blackball Race
12. Man-of-War Race.

Subscriptions for the handlings to be in the hands of the Secretary on THURSDAY, the 8th February, by 7 p.m., accompanied by a deposit of 5s. for each entry. Handlings will be published in the TORRANCE HERALD and posted on the Building-Scheme on FRIDAY, 11th February. Acceptances will not be received after 7 p.m. on MONDAY, 14th February, and must be accompanied by an acceptance fee of 1s. Entrance for all other races accepting 7s. 11s. and 12s. 1s.

Stamps and drawers must be worn by all competitors.

Three to compete, or no prize.

None but members of the Recreation Grounds Swimming Club will be allowed to compete, except in all-swims' races. Member's subscription to Club, 2s. 6d.

F. CARRINGTON,

Secy.

TH, FEBRUARY 17, 1881

RECREATION GROUNDS
SWIMMING CLUB.

AQUATIC SPORTS.

President: Dr. Gibbes. Vice-President: Mr. E. C. Hughes. Judge: Major Stapp and Major Talm. Starter: Captain Halford. Committee: Messrs. S. King, J. H. Key, Collins, Gray, F. Carrington, Dr. Gibbes, and C. Grant.

Aquatic sports under the auspices of the above Club were held yesterday at the Recreation Grounds, and the weather being favourable a large number of spectators assembled to witness the various events. The programme was similar to that of last year, but the events were, on the whole, not so well contested, the entries not being so numerous. None of the local ones started in the important events, the competition being all A.D. men. The half-mile race and the Torrance's champion race were both exciting events, the former being very close. Considerable interest was manifested in the proceedings, particularly in the blackball race, water-woman's surprise, and Man-of-War race. An event arose of which we had never in the programme, but which proved provocative of much merriment. One of the boats on the lake capsized, and the occupants were precipitated into the water close to the bank of the lake. The apparatus of the disabled passengers was very ludicrous, and an irresistible jest of laughter was heard throughout the grounds, little sympathy being shown for the sorry plight of the unfortunate. Dr. Gibbes, the president of the club, Captain Halford, starter, and Captain Carrington, judge, discharged their duties with ability, and the members of the committee did everything in their power to promote the success of the meeting. At the close of the sports Mrs. Gibbes, with a few complimentary remarks, presented the medals to the possessors of the following winners of the long races:—Stapp, Watt, Cooper, Galloway, and Farnell, who were handsomely cheered as each man came forward to the honor. Each of the other winners also received prizes at the same time. Three dinners were eaten for the ladies, Dr. Gibbes, and the Committee, which were heartily enjoyed.

The following is the result of the races:—All-swims' Handicap; 75 yards; for Boys under 14 years.

Leach...	...	...	...	...	1
Servier...	...	...	...	...	2
Seabright...	...	...	...	...	3

This was a pretty race, Leach winning by two yards; the others making a good struggle for second place.

Half-mile Handicap, 800 yards.

Cooper (Dress)...	...	...	...	...	1
Galloway (Dress)...	...	...	...	...	2
Farnell (Swims)...	...	...	...	...	3

Cooper and Galloway each swam together for 400 yards, when Farnell drew up level; but at the quarter-mile mark Farnell threw up two sponge to Cooper and Galloway, who were both swimming strong. In turning the last buoy for home Cooper began to clear away; but twenty yards from home Galloway put on a special spurt, and Cooper, following suit, just managed to win by one yard, after a most exciting struggle, amidst much cheering of kind from the spectators.

Handicap for boys under 14; 75 yards.

Wood...	...	...	...	...	1
Carrington...	...	...	...	...	2
Blackburn...	...	...	...	...	3

The other two failed to catch Wood, who had their start; although Carrington and Blackburn came a hard-stern chase. Carrington beat Blackburn by two yards.

President's Medal Handicap, 300 yards.

J. Watt (swims)...	...	...	...	...	1
Farnell (swims)...	...	...	...	...	2
Cooper (Dress)...	...	...	...	...	3

Galloway and Stapp did not get their start. Cooper gave an other swimming 20 yards. Farnell, seeing he had no chance against Watt, also "swam in" after he had covered 100 yards, leaving Watt to win on the final.

Blackball Race, 50 yards.

Carrington...	...	...	...	...	1
King...	...	...	...	...	2
Carruth...	...	...	...	...	3

This race caused much excitement amongst the people. Five started. Carrington covered a straight course, and won by six yards, whilst the others went for a short course up and down the lake; ultimately King and Carruth managed to get to the right side close behind each other, but about thirty yards apart; C. W. Grant, fourth. Wernock did not find the other side.

Torrance's Champion Half-mile (all-swims); 800 yards.

Farnell...	...	...	...	...	1
Watt...	...	...	...	...	2
Galloway...	...	...	...	...	3

Galloway gave an after he had covered thirty yards, leaving Watt and Farnell to fight it out. Watt led Farnell nearly all the way till close to the winning post, when Farnell shuttled Watt, and after a short, sharp struggle, Farnell managed to beat Watt by two yards, after a fine exhibition of swimming.

Child's Medal—200 yards.

Galloway...	...	...	...	...	1
J. Grant...	...	...	...	...	2
Cooper...	...	...	...	...	3

This was a rather easy win for Galloway, although Grant tried hard to pass King, but failed to get closer than six yards, Grant beating Cooper about the same distance for second place.

Champion Dive.

Galloway...	...	...	...	...	1
Grant...	...	...	...	...	2
C. Grant...	...	...	...	...	3

Three came forward for this, which was won by Galloway with a dive of 30 yards.

TH, FEBRUARY 17, 1881
FUNDRAISING

THE FANCY FAIR

In aid of funds for the Recreation Grounds will be held on

THURSDAY, 24th INSTANT

Country friends who have DONATIONS for the above will please leave the same with Mrs. STEPHENS, Devon-street. 173 0/8

BOTANICAL GARDENS
FANCY FAIR II

BOTANICAL GARDENS Fête and Fancy Fair, All ye who wish to come and take the air, Mid yewer baskets, around the limpid lake, And drink off with us and leave take.

Toys for your children, Cags for smoking brothers, Gifts for your sweethearts, presents for your mothers.

Prinked o'er by faces bright and sunny; So see and all be pleased to bring some money.

Amusements for the many will be seen, Music and dancing, dancing on the green, With Tub Bacs, Water Poles, and a lark—And Fireworks, Sports, and Rockets after dark.

Then come ye early, friends, or come ye late; Do pay your money at the entrance gate; (Don't delude the keeper), on the ground's behalf.

USE BILLING for ARTISTS, and CHILDREN HALF.

377 1/2

**TH, FEBRUARY 17, 1881
WATER POLO IN THE LAKE**

A meeting of persons interested in the Water Polo match, to be held in the Recreation Grounds, in connection with the Fancy Fair on Thursday next, was held at the office of Mr. J. Skelliff last evening, when the necessary arrangements were made for carrying out the match, and subscriptions were received towards defraying the expenses. The match, from its novel character, will doubtless prove an exceedingly interesting one, and will be quite a feature in the day's amusements.

TH, FEBRUARY 25, 1881

THE FANCY FAIR

AT THE RECREATION GROUNDS.
We intimated yesterday that the Fancy Fair in aid of the funds of the Recreation Grounds was likely to be a success, and our prognostication was fully realized. In the afternoon part of the business plan in terms closed in order to allow the employees an opportunity of visiting the grounds. From 2 p.m. the grounds presented a scene of animation and activity, and the proceeds of the Fancy Fair had no superiority as to the number of their visitors. The originators of the movement were the ladies, and their marked long and incessant in bringing matters to a successful issue.

For months past they have been engaged in making articles for the Fair, and on the question of the day yesterday remained, how suitable and desirable they were in the main. Every conceivable article in the useful and fancy lines were upon the tables as the result of the busy "Working Bee" which they had held, and if they were proud of their labours they had every reason to be so.

While conducting the ladies generally for their good-will efforts, we would particularly mention the name of one lady as having in a personal degree entitled to credit for her untiring exertions in the arrangement of the details. Mrs. Hamilton was always looked upon by the ladies as their leader; and upon her devoted the general supervision of affairs. We are informed that had it not been for her untiring determination, the idea of a fancy fair would probably not have been carried out, owing to the difficulties experienced in the early stages of the movement. She instilled life and energy in the workers, both by her example and by words of encouragement. It afforded us great pleasure yesterday to see her full of animation, and working with earnest zeal, notwithstanding that she has passed the sixth decade of life.

The stalls were neatly constructed of rope and ornamented with flags. There were four fancy stalls and two refreshment stalls.

Stall No. 1 was presided over by Madam Humphreys, Phillips, and O'Farrell, assisted by Miss Humphreys (S), R. Carrington, Williams, Walker, and Harcourt.

Stall No. 2—Madam C. Barrow, White, and E. Brown, assisted by Miss Barrow and Scudamore.

Stall No. 3 (day stall)—Miss H. Humphreys and Solo.

Stall No. 4 (boat stall)—Madam H. Harford and Brown, assisted by Miss Walker, Hill, and DeForge.

Stall No. 5 (refreshment stall)—Mrs. Boyke, Misses Cottrell and Holke.

Stall No. 6 (refreshment stall)—Madam Smith, R. Smith, and Miss Smith.

A refreshment booth, under the superintendence of Mr. Callaghan, was also on the grounds.

In the fancy goods stalls we noticed displayed for sale workboxes, photographs, presses, making caps, vases, perfume, fancy baskets, picture frames, knives, pens, scissors, anti-macassars, mats, shawls, &c. The ladies who presided at the stalls were all intent on business, and the luckless old bachelor who happened to go near the table for the purpose of inspection was generally distinguished. We ourselves witnessed one young lady speed (scarcely minutes embracing) to purchase an opportunity to buy a lady's bonnet. Why she should have offered a lady's bonnet to a bachelor appeared a mystery, but then ladies are acknowledging she might have meant him to take the hint and get married. He was certainly not a warm admirer of the ladies, or he would have been tempted to follow the example of a noble duke, on a similar occasion, who was bewitched by the charms of a young lady of gentle birth into making the total offer of £200 for a kiss, which was promptly accepted, and the kiss given in public on the spot. The kiss, of course, was looked upon by the young lady as merchandise, and the proceeds went to considerably swell the fancy fund. We did not, however, hear of any such merchandise being for sale at the Recreation Grounds yesterday.

At 4.30 p.m. the game of "water polo" was started, when six competitors appeared at the post with their white wools—viz., four ladies ornamented with noble cloths and wooden burn heads. This was expected to be a game of much excitement and interest, but we were sorry that it was a success. The only sport derived from it was the number of "quills" worn competitor had. There were only three out of the six who touched the ball, and they were too busy engaged in keeping their heads to think of striking it. They did not look courage or perseverance, but they evidently looked practice in the game.

In the evening the attendance was large, and the grounds being lighted up with Chinese lanterns presented a very brilliant appearance. A number of gentlemen appeared in fancy costumes, the character of a "banker" being the favorite. We noticed one gentleman dressed as a Highlander, but whether he intended it for a fancy costume or not we are unable to say. The Glee and Chorus Band rendered some choice selections of vocal music on the lake, and made the hills resound with the melody.

The stalls were well patronized, and the Fancy Fair will probably be a success financially.

The amount collected at the gates yesterday was £11.

**TH, FEBRUARY 28, 1881
FANCY FAIR TAKINGS**

THE LATE FANCY FAIR.

The result of the takings at the late Fancy Fair in aid of the funds of the Recreation Grounds, were the whole very satisfactory as will be seen from the following return:—

We have been requested to call the attention of persons to whom the Committee are indebted to send in their accounts at once to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. Boyley, with view to their settlement.

Mrs. Humphreys	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Barrow	—	10	8
Mrs. Mabel Hamilton	—	14	8
Refreshment stalls	—	17	8
Mrs. Harford	—	4	10
Union	—	41	8
Total	£110	12	8

**TH, MAY 30, 1881
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Board met on Monday. Present: Captain Davison (in the chair), Messrs. Gibson, Davis, Hughes, and Ford.

Secretary of Board.—It was resolved on the motion of Mr. Harcourt, seconded by Mr. Davis, "That the Secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Hildreth requesting him to sign a statement of his lease from the Board of the the vineyard and ornamental grounds."

Thanks.—Mr. Harcourt moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, "That the thanks of the Board be tendered to Mrs. Humphreys and the other ladies for their cordials in getting up a banner in aid of the funds of the Board."—Carried.

Organ Grounds.—It was decided to commence the draining and clearing of the swamp in the Recreation Grounds, for the purpose of making a cricket ground.

Grants.—The Board resolved that all moneys due to the Board not paid by the end of the present month be used for.

Secretary's Report.—On the motion of Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Harcourt, it was agreed that steps be taken to recover the value of the wools destroyed by a dog belonging to the members of the A.F. Club.

Resignation of a Member.—The resignation of Mr. R. Boyley, as a Member of the Board was accepted, and it was decided to recommend the Government to appoint Mr. J. R. Key to the vacant seat.

Finance.—The Board declared that the seal of Mr. H. Thompson was rendered vacant on account of non-attendance, and decided to recommend that Dr. O'Brien be appointed to the seat.

This concluded the business.

**TH, JUNE 7, 1881
REQUEST FOR SWAMP FILL**

Recreation Grounds.—An application was received from Mr. H. Ford, Secretary of the Recreation Ground Board, requesting permission to remove the earth at the entrance of the grounds, near Market-street, for the purpose of filling in the swamp in the grounds.—The matter was referred to the Works Committee.

**TH, JUNE 28, 1881
PLANT DONATION**

We hear that Mr. Mitchell, of the Catholic Nursery, has liberally offered about a thousand well-grown trees and plants of various kinds to the Recreation Board, the only condition being that that the Board members an experienced man to transplant them. For want of funds it is feared that this handsome offer will be declined. Great praise the Board and the committee of the grounds our thirty weeks' wages, part only of which has been paid.

**TH, JULY 5, 1881
SWAMP FILL EARTH GRANTED**

Public Works Committee.—The report of the Public Works Committee was read as follows:—Resolved, "That the Recreation Ground Board have permission to remove 2,000 yards of earth from Market-street, provided it be taken off the brow of the hill the full width of the street, and that owners of property on each side have notice to put their fences in their proper places, the work to be done in the satisfaction of the Public Works Committee."—Resolved, "That the plan submitted to the Committee by Messrs. Gibson and Solo, as having for street widening, be adopted, subject to the approval of the Council."—The report was confirmed.

TH, JULY 25, 1881
RECREATION GROUNDS
IMPROVEMENTS

The Botanical Gardens Board are carrying out extensive improvements in the Recreation Grounds. Several hundreds of trees have been planted, and the swamp at the north-east end of the grounds has been drained preparatory to its being laid down in grass for a cricket lawn. In the course of two or three years, when the trees will have grown up, the grounds will present a charming appearance, and will vie in point of excellence with any other to be found in the Colony. The thanks of the community are due to the Botanical Gardens Board for their assiduity in the discharge of their duties, and the public will have an opportunity of showing their appreciation by patronizing the forthcoming entertainments to be given by amateurs in aid of the funds of the Board.

TH, JULY 27, 1881
STATE OF FINANCES

THE BOTANICAL GARDENS BOARD is doing its best with the limited means at command to effect certain improvements in the Recreation Grounds. It must be evident, however, to every person that a considerable amount of work remains yet to be done before the grounds will be as all points desirable, and as the Board has no money for carrying out improvements, the question arises how can be supplied with funds? A number of gentlemen have interested themselves in the matter, and have decided to give a performance, with the object of assisting the Board in its present financial difficulties; but, although these gentlemen are to be commended for their generous intentions, it cannot be said that this is a satisfactory or adequate way of providing ways and means. The work which the Board has to perform is of far too much importance to be dependent upon occasional donations, and unless some regular system of finance can be devised, the grounds will be simply ruined by piecemeal operations. There can be no overrating the fact that a Recreation Ground of some kind is essential for all communities. The health of the city or town depends largely upon the means its inhabitants possess for out-door recreation; and the sanitary condition of any town is imperilled by the neglect of procuring means for obtaining healthy recreation. We take it for granted, therefore, that this is admitted by every one, and the only question which we have to deal with is, how can the funds for the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds be provided? Unquestionably it appears to us that the Municipal authorities, by virtue of their office, are called upon to provide sufficient funds for this purpose, and their neglect of duty in this respect is as reprehensible as if they neglected to make and maintain the streets within the Borough. The planting out of Flowering Grounds is mentioned in the Act as one of the purposes for which Municipal Corporations are established, and the claim which the Recreation Grounds has upon the Borough Council should not, therefore, be lost sight of. It is true that the Council has this year recognized this claim to a certain extent, and has voted the sum of £30 to the Botanical Gardens Board; but it must be remembered that this is a special vote, and may or may not be granted next year. As a matter of fact it matters not whether the funds are provided by the Borough Council or not, the community must in any case provide the means; but as a matter of expediency we think the Borough Council should supply the necessary funds. In order to do this it will probably be necessary to increase the ordinary Borough rate, but we feel sure that the small

increase of six-pence penny in the pound would not be objected to, and would supply an annual revenue of over £100 to the Botanical Gardens Board. With this small fixed resource, and any donations that might be obtained, the Board could carry out the improvements, and we are certain the result would be exceedingly gratifying. Strawberries and flower-beds would be laid out, and an extensive cricket lawn formed, which, in addition to the ornamental water already procured, and the shady arbours which will no doubt be provided, the residents of New Plymouth would have no cause to be envious of their Botanical Gardens. A holiday would then be made more enjoyable to the townspeople, and that rapid state of affairs which is only too often noticeable during a holiday in New Plymouth would be avoided, as amusement and recreation would be within the reach of all.

TH, AUGUST 17, 1881
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

BOTANICAL GARDENS BOARD
THE BOARD met on Friday. Present: Messrs Harris, Ford, Hughes, and Roy.

Resolutions.—A letter was read from Mr. T. Colson, resigning himself as a member of the Board.—Mr. Davis moved, "That the hearty thanks of the board be conferred to Mr. Colson for his valuable services as a member during the past six years, and the Board expresses their regret at his being compelled to resign."—Carried.

Appointments.—On the motion of Mr. Ford, it was resolved, "That the Governor be requested to appoint Mr. T. K. Skinner as a member of the Board, vice Mr. Colson."

Plans.—It was resolved, "That the thanks of the Board be given to Mr. Bayley for his donation of two plots of the grounds."

Governer.—Mr. H. Ford was appointed caretaker for the present month.

Trees.—The Surveyor reported that 1100 trees had been planted in the grounds this season.

This concluded the business.

TH, AUGUST 30, 1881
FUNDRAISING

The Star Mission perform tonight in Courtney's Hall, in aid of the Recreation Ground Funds, and we are glad to hear that there is likely to be a full house. A stage has been fitted up, the scenery laid, and the plans lighted with gas, so that everything having been made as complete as possible, the visitors will be able to enjoy the performance.

TH, SEPTEMBER 14, 1881
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A meeting of the Botanical Gardens Board was held on Friday, the 9th instant. Present, Mr. Roy (in the chair), Dr. Gilbert, and Messrs. Davis, Ford, Hughes, and Skinner.

Resignation.—Mr. D. Marry's tender for lease of Section 100, for a term of one year certain, at 20s. per annum, was accepted, it being agreed that six months' notice should be given on either side of discontinuance of lease.—Mr. D. Power's tender for lease of sections 1110 and 1118, for fourteen years, at 10s. each per annum, was declined.—Mr. Fuller's tender for a piece of cultivated land in the Recreation Grounds, amounting to 25, was accepted by the Board on condition that the lessee would plant shrubs, &c., in the ground, and keep the footpaths clear.

Vote of Thanks.—Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Hutchinson for his valuable donation of shrubs; to Mr. Gossett for a donation of money; to the Star Mission for their services in getting up the late account, by which the sum of £111 11s. 3d. was received, in recognition of the Board's funds; and to the Borough Council for the grant of £50.

Clearing Swamp.—Mr. Skinner was requested to prepare a plan and specification for the removal of earth and filling in the swamp at the Grounds, and to call for tenders for the work.

This concluded the business.

TH, SEPTEMBER 14, 1881
SWAMP FILLING TENDER

TENDERS

FOR EARTHWORK in Recreation Grounds will be received till 4 p.m. on THURSDAY next. Particulars can be obtained from Mr. T. K. Skinner.

HARRIS FORD,
 Secretary.

September 10, 1881.

4765-481

TH, SEPTEMBER 17, 1881
SWAMP TENDER

Mr. Alfred Wells is the successful tenderer for the removal of earth at the Recreation Grounds, for the purpose of filling in the swamp. It is proposed to make a cricket ground when the swamp has been filled up. This will prove a great boon to the cricketers of the district, who for years past have been laboring under the disadvantage of having only a very inferior ground, and they could consequently derive little or no pleasure in pursuing this favorite pastime.

TH, SEPTEMBER 22, 1881
FUNDRAISING

LECTURE ON ELECTRICITY.

A LECTURE on "ELECTRICITY," with Illustrations and Experiments, by Mr. W. PARKER, to conclude with a TELEPHONIC DEMONSTRATION, will be given at the Professor's Hall, Taini Eymaia, in aid of the funds of the Recreation Grounds, on THURSDAY, 22nd, at 8 p.m.

HARRIS FORD,
 Secretary.

4767-482

TH, OCTOBER 8, 1881
MISC

RECREATION GROUNDS FUND.

A N ENTERTAINMENT, under the auspices of the Egmont Lodge, L.O.M.E., will be held in the Foreman's Hall on THURSDAY, the 10th instant, in aid of the fund.

RECREATION GROUNDS BATHING HOUSE.

A MEETING of all persons interested in this building will be held at Mr. Gossett's office on MONDAY EVENING next, at 8 o'clock. Agenda: To consider the proposals of leasing the property over to the Recreation Board.

RECREATION GROUNDS.

OWING to the persistent disregard of the Regulation as to the NON-ADMISSION of DOGS to these GROUNDS, the public are respectfully informed that persons walking in the grounds after the 15th inst. with dogs in their following will be prosecuted.

TH, OCTOBER 11, 1881
BATHING HOUSE USAGE

**RECREATION GROUNDS
BATHING HOUSE.**

PERSONS using this house during the summer season are required to OBTAIN a **TICKET** (price 2s. 6d.) from the undersigned.

4304 a13

E. FORD,
Secretary.

TH, OCTOBER 12, 1881

RECREATION GROUNDS FUND.

A **MUSICAL AND LITERARY ENTERTAINMENT** (under the auspices of the Egmont Lodge, L.O.V.E.) will be held at the Foresters' Hall on **THURSDAY, 19th instant, at 7.30 p.m.** The programme will comprise vocal quadrilles, including a brief description by an M.D. of a simple method of resuscitating the apparently drowned (a patient will be provided), and also a performance on the harp, by a gentleman lately from Europe.

Tickets (1s.) may be had of Mrs. Wood's, Mr. Devere's, Miss Holford's, and Mr. Gilmore's.
4305 a13

TH, OCTOBER 15, 1881

A meeting of the Botanical Gardens Board was held on Friday, the 7th instant. Present: Captain Davidson (in the chair), Messrs Davis, Harton, Roy, Skinner, and Ford.

Application for Extension.—Mr. Bamford applied for the lease of cottages 1060 and 1067, Town of New Plymouth.—It was resolved, "That Mr. Bamford's offer to lease cottages 1060 and 1067, at 21 each per annum, be accepted as a yearly tenancy, subject to three months' notice from either side after the 1st year."

Migrated Cottages.—It was resolved that Messrs. Bay, Hughes, and the Secretary be appointed a Committee to acquire into and take the necessary action in the matter of the cottages occupied by Messrs. Hardy and Corbett.

Approval to Lease.—Mr. Skinner was authorized to report on making an order approach to the lawn in the Recreation Ground.

Progress Payment.—The Secretary was authorized to make a progress payment to the contractor now engaged in the Grounds.

Bathing Areas.—It was decided to appoint a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Harton, Roy, and Skinner, to arrange with the Bathing Club to take over the bathing-house, and make the necessary arrangements for the season.

Vote of Thanks.—Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Parker for his lecture, and to the ladies and gentlemen who assisted at the recent entertainment in aid of the Board's funds; to Mr. Reginald Bayley for his collection of native seeds, and for having forwarded the same to the Curator of the Botanical Gardens, Melbourne.

Orders.—Mr. Bayley was appointed steward for the current month.

This concluded the business.

TH, OCTOBER 28, 1881
PLANT DONATION

Mr. Harris Ford, the Secretary of the Botanical Gardens Board, has received a valuable selection of flower and shrub seeds from the Curator of the Botanical Gardens, Melbourne. The parcel was sent in exchange for a quantity of seeds forwarded by the Board to Melbourne, and the Curator expresses the hope that the Botanical Gardens Board of New Plymouth will continue the interchange of donations.

TH, OCTOBER 31, 1881

**A MUSICAL AND LITERARY
ENTERTAINMENT**

WILL be given in the Foresters' Hall, **TUESDAY, 31st inst.** It is hoped that there will be a good attendance of the public, as the proceeds will be placed at the disposal of the Recreation Grounds Committee, Auckland, N.Z. To commence at 8 o'clock sharp.
4312 a13

TH, NOVEMBER 1, 1881
FUNDRAISING

A party of ladies and gentlemen gave an entertainment last evening at the Masonic Hall, in aid of the funds of the Recreation Grounds. The hall was well filled, and the Ven. Archdeacon Garrett officiated. The first piece on the programme was a piano duet by Misses Hales and Burnett, which was executed in an accomplished style, and was loudly applauded. Mr. Parker rendered the favorite song, "The Swallow's Farewell to his Nest," and was followed by a reading which was given by Mr. Garrett. The performance on the harp by Mr. Devereux was a novelty, and was fully appreciated by the audience. We have not space to comment upon the various pieces given, but they were of rare and average excellence. The entertainment was of a social character, and everyone present appeared to enjoy themselves. In addition to the pieces already mentioned, the following were given:—Reading, "What Mr. Robinson thinks," Mr. Garrett; song and recitation, Mr. Ford; reading, Mr. Worthington; song, Mr. Gilbert; comic sketch, "The Miserable Man," Mr. Arnold; song, Mr. Edwards; Glee, Miss Corbett and Mr. Brewster; song, Mr. Williams; comic sketch, "The Nightmare," Mr. DeMey; reading, "A Night with a Book," Mr. Matthews, Miss Williams and several other ladies officiated at the piano during the evening.

TH, DECEMBER 12, 1881
TROUT IN THE REC LAKE

We are informed that salmon are now becoming plentiful in the Waitohu River. A gentleman, a few days ago, saw a number of salmon in the river disputing themselves, and they were all of good size. As the lake in the Recreation Grounds the trout are also increasing rapidly in all appearances, and some good sport will shortly be had.



Fountain lake in the early 1900's. The enclosure on the right is a Peacock House built at the turn of the century which was located at the edge of what is now Palm Lawn. (Puke Ariki PHO2012-0001)

1882

Again the state of finances was front and centre of the Board's thoughts. The filling of the swamp was halted due to lack of funds and the Board again approached the Borough Council pleading for help in funding the Recreation Grounds. The Board officially threatened to hand over the ground to the council if aid was not forthcoming and eventually the council granted the Board £50.

During one Board meeting it was suggested new blood should be found and the meeting descended into chaos, but eventually they settled down and the status quo was restored.

The Acclimatisation Society was approached to help the Board. It was suggested that Darby Claffey, the custodian, be educated in the care of monkeys, goats, buffalos, elephants, serpents, and other interesting animals which the Acclimatisation Society may propose to let loose on the grounds if they come to the party.

In March a half day holiday was observed for the annual swimming tournament. The weather was fine, and the event was well-attended. Amongst the usual swimming events there was also a very amusing porker at the end of a greasy pole competition which caused much hilarity. A greasy pole was fixed so as to hang over the water, at its end was fastened a box with a pig in it. The swimmers had to climb along a pole, let out the pig so it dropped into the water, then retrieve it to the bank. Several unsuccessful attempts were made before the prize was eventually claimed by W. Holford.

During the year, several people made personal donations to the grounds. Robert Clinton Hughes had a small ornamental lake made. Thomas Furlong donated a fountain, placed on what is now the Hatchery Lawn, two statues (Graces) in the main lake and a flagpole with a circular mirror hung from it. Thomas Furlong, or Professor Furlong as he liked to be known, was an interesting character, and very active in the community. He had arrived in New Plymouth with the 57th Regiment during the 1860's. In 1866 he opened a barber shop on Devon Street West by the Mangaotuku Stream, next to William Collis, the photographer. He always had the latest in equipment, such as chairs etc. At the back was an extensive tobacconist and a shooting gallery. He also operated as a chiropodist. Doctor Gibbes also donated a fountain. Thomas Wilson donated some King Ferns and Mr. Shuttleworth donated some Prussian carp.

Towards the end of the year reclamation of the swamp was resumed and a third of an acre was added to the lawn. The contractor was G Thompson.

Summary of significant events

- Salmon in the lake.
- Professor Furlong donates statues in the lake and a fountain, in what is now The Hatchery Lawn.
- The waterfall in the SW corner of the Hatchery Lawn is constructed.
- The Hughes lake under construction.
- Board threatens to hand over Recreation Grounds to Borough Council.
- Tender accepted for filling in swamp.
- Swamp filling commenced.
- Bandstand plans presented and get the go ahead.



Image of Captain James Davidson (Puke Ariki A66.384)

Captain James Davidson, 1834 - 1885

Recreation Ground Trustee 1880 - 1885

Captain Davidson was born in Kelso, Scotland 1834. In 1865 he immigrated to the United States and enlisted as a second lieutenant in the 19th Maine Infantry Volunteers. In 1867 he joined the regular army as a private rising to the rank of first sergeant, after passing exams he was appointed second lieutenant. In 1869 his unit was transferred to Texas and Davidson assumed the duty of military commissioner of Red River County, where he quickly made a name for himself. Soon after the Governor nominated Davidson adjutant general of Texas with the rank of colonel. His role put him in charge of the state police. He also headed the state militia and in 1871 and gained the rank of major general. In 1872 he unsuccessfully ran for state senator. Following a dispute over finances Davidson decided to leave the United States. During his time in service there he suffered a sabre wound which caused him pain in the following years. Davidson arrived in New Plymouth in the early 1870's and in 1874 he married Jayne Ryan and the couple had six children. He became a prominent figure in New Plymouth, serving on the Harbour Board, the Hospital Board and was the third Mayor of New Plymouth, serving two terms.

**TH, JANUARY 16, 1882
BRAWL IN THE RECREATION**

On Sunday afternoon a disgraceful scene occurred at the Recreation Grounds, in the shape of a free fight amongst some youngsters, and it was found necessary to send for the police. It is true these young sports were taught that they cannot assault members of the police with impunity whenever and wherever they please. The police are on the alert, and will make an example of the first offenders they can lay hold of in future. It is very essential that strict order and decency should be maintained in the Recreation Grounds, as the public generally will be compelled to shut out their eyes to the exclusive use of a few "rowdies."

TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1882

SWIMMING TOURNAMENT.

THE ANNUAL SWIMMING TOURNAMENT will take place on the Ornamental Water in the Recreation Ground, on **WEDNESDAY, the 8th March.**

Further particulars in future advertisement.

J. MURRAY GIBBS,
H.S. in the mill Hon. Sec.

**TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1882
FILL FROM LIARDET ST STOPPED**

The upper end of Liarde-street, leading into the Recreation Grounds, is in a dangerous state owing to the recent removal of earth to fill in the swamp in the Grounds. Quite a precipice has been formed and several persons have already met with accidents while walking along the street. We believe no blame is attached to the Botanical Gardens Board who caused the the removal of the earth on the road, for we understand they were duly ordered to do so by the Borough Council, and the street was left in a most disgraceful condition. The Borough Council should take immediate action in the matter, and at once remedy the evil.

**TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1882
BOARD HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR
UNSAFE LIARDET STREET**

State of Liarde-street.—Mr. BELLINGHAM alluded to a paragraph in the Herald re the state of Liarde-street; and said that the Botanical Gardens Board were to blame for leaving the street in that condition.

The Council then adjourned.

**TH, MARCH 9, 1882
SWIMMING COMPETITION RESULTS**

SWIMMING TOURNAMENT.

The Recreation Ground Swimming Club held their annual tournament on the lake yesterday. A hot day was observed in town by most of the business people, and the weather being fine a large number of spectators visited the grounds. These annual aquatic sports have been decidedly popular, and the Committee entrusted with the management must have been gratified that their exertions were duly appreciated, as the general public showed great interest in the various events of the day. A nice afternoon holiday, both for young and old, could not have been desired, and the cheerful, happy faces that were to be seen everywhere told how much enjoyment was being afforded to the visitors. Seated under the shady trees, were to be seen groups of persons listening to the stories of the Town Band, or watching the various events with eagerness. The many ponds of leisure which frequently flooded them the lake denied that some unfortunate swimmer had made an exhibition of himself or some to "give" in his endeavour to win the contest. Much amusement was afforded by the prying jabs, the attempts made to reach the eye of the rival being for a considerable time unsuccessful. When the unfortunate punter was at last reached, taken out of the lake, and dropped into the water, the scramble which ensued among the competitors to win the prize opened quite a comedy. W. Helford was the first to grapple with the submerged punter, which put death in the eyes of several persons to escape from his pressure. Helford landed the punter, and accordingly became his own property. The convenience of the visitors was studied by the Committee in every way, seats being placed along the banks at suitable intervals, and a refreshment booth was erected, where Mr. Martenby supplied the wants of his numerous customers. The courses were all distinctly marked off, thus preventing any mistakes occurring in that respect among the competitors. Major Tate acted as judge, Captain Davidson as starter, and Mr. Watt as referee. Dr. Gibson, the President of the Club, worked very hard in receiving the entries and generally supervising the events. The members of the Committee were also very strict to their duties, and it is to be recorded to their credit that not a single drink occurred during the whole proceedings. The Town Band contributed selections of music, filling up the intervals between the same in an agreeable manner. We append the results of the events:—

- 50 Yards Race, for boys under 15. Prize 10s.
G. Hind, 1; T. Harvey, 2; H. Lynch, 3.
Five competitors started.
- 50 Yards Race, for adults. Prize 4l.
A. Graham, 1; W. Helford, 2; Parnell, 3.
This was rather a close finish, Graham being only three yards ahead of Helford, and Parnell was a good third. The other competitors were O'Donnell, Hughes, and Gashin.
- 100 yards. Boys under 15. Prize 10s.
Manning, 1; Harvey, 2. M. Weston and H. Lynch also competed.
- 200 yards Maiden Race, for Adults. Prize 4l.
W. Helford, 1; Doherty, 2. Ogle also tried conclusions, but failed to obtain a place. Helford had the race all his own way from the start, and won easily.

The Public Schools' Champion Race (Continued.)
Prize, 40s and Silver Medal; 700 yards, 4l.
Hind (Gibson), 1; Gibson (Hibson), 2; Hughes (Hibson), 3. The other competitors were—O'Donnell (Hibson), Brewster (17s. 6d.), Bell (Hibson), Helford (Hibson), Harris (Hibson), and Parnell (Hibson). Parnell, who was at scratch, gave the best swimmer a start of one minute, and before he took to the water the leading man was fifty yards ahead of him. The greatest interest was excited in this race, it being expected that Parnell would show "the native" here to come in the water, as he enjoyed the reputation of being at one time a champion swimmer in the north of England. As soon as he struck out, it was evident he had the pace, and for a distance of one hundred yards he gained at every stroke. His peculiar style, however, precluded him from obtaining a view of the course, his head being half the time submerged in the water. The consequence of this disadvantage was that he lost ground considerably by going out of the course opposite the first buoy, and he was not aware of his error until he found himself aground. Had he slackened his speed occasionally and taken a view of the course he would have undoubtedly won the race. Gibson led well, with Hind second, but on reaching the last Gibson took a wide swing, and Hind gained on him by several lengths. Hughson and Hughes were not in order coming down the lake, but they were fully thirty yards behind the two leading men. Parnell passed the swimmers one by one, and put himself in better time with Hind and Gibson before completing the first round of the course. In doing the second lap Parnell again went out of the course, and fell behind. After getting straight again he continued his course at regular speed, but on reaching the second buoy he passed his side and did not perceive his mistake. Several persons on the bank called out loudly to him to go back, but he paid no attention and continued his course. He was consequently out of the race. While Hind and Gibson were going at a good steady stroke, Hind, however, had some reluctance, and passed Gibson before reaching the upper end of the lake for the last time. He was hindered by several lengths after reaching the buoy. In the race, however, Gibson put on a good speed, and was handsomely ahead, as he increased the distance between himself and Hind. He could not, however, keep up the pace, but considering he had only one arm it was a wonder to the spectators that he did so well. Parnell secured second place, and finished about twenty yards behind Hind, who was really without apparently making an effort. Parnell of course was disappointed, and second and third places were taken by Gibson and Hughes respectively. Time—11mins. 38 1/2 sec. eyes.

- Long Dive, for adults. Prize 4l.
Graham and Gashin tied (37 feet). A dispute occurred between them, and as there was a difficulty in deciding upon the actual distance dived by the two first men, it was agreed they should divide the money. Hughes (34 feet), and Martin (29) feet, also competed.
- Bank Race, 75 yards. Prize 10s.
J. G. Parnell, 1; E. Ogle, 2; W. Helford, 3. Hind, Hughes, and Brewster also contested the event. Parnell won as he dived.
- 25 yards Consolation Race. Boys under 15. Prize 10s.
Lynch, 1; Harvey, 2.
- 100 yards Consolation Race. Adults. Prize 10s.
Ogle, 1; Hughes and Brewster, tie. Ogle led from the start and won easily.
- A race for boys under 15 swam in as follows:—Marshall, 1; Brewster, 2; Lynch, 3.
- At the conclusion of the sports the prizes were distributed by Captain Davidson.

TH, MARCH 27, 1882
FUNDRAISING

FANCY FAIR.

A FANCY FAIR will be held in the RECREATION GROUNDS on the 29th and 30th instant. Dancing on the green, music on the water, and other amusements will be provided.

Fireworks, Balloons, &c.

A Band will be in attendance.

Gardens will be open from 2 to 4 and from 7 to 9 daily.

The Grounds will be brilliantly illuminated in the evening.

J. MURRAY GIBBS.

SEC. GEN.

Sec. Sec.

TH, MARCH 30, 1882
FANCY FAIR

A FANCY FAIR was opened at the Recreation Grounds yesterday, with the object of raising funds for the Botanical Gardens Board. A considerable quantity of fancy articles remaining unsold from the last fancy fair was available for this occasion, and, with new goods furnished by the ladies, quite a respectable show was displayed on the stalls. During the afternoon a considerable amount of business was done, although there was not a very large attendance of the public. The bands playing on the lake were well patronized, and maintained a good pace to the general fund. Mr. Cook, sen., was in charge of the navigation of the lake, and by his careful management no casualties are to be recorded. The Rev. Mr. Taylor appeared very busy, as he was in charge of the target at which the competitors fired for prizes. This was found to be a very useful way of aiding in the disposal of the articles for sale, and was not by any means an invasion of the Leisure Act, as it was a genuine game of skill. A booth was erected in front of the lake, which was divided into three stalls, and provided over by ladies. The refreshment booth was under the charge of Messrs. Skewton, Devconah, and Halford and Misses South and Oatwell. The fancy stall was provided over by Mrs. Roy and Misses Lovel, Southworth, Devconah, Watkins, and Wilson. Mrs. Gibbs had the general supervision of the toy stall, and was assisted by Mrs. Harbridge and Misses Humphries and Brown. Miss E. Harrison had charge of the Wheel of Fortune, and did a remarkably good business with it. Mrs. Phillips had the management of the Art Union, and was also successful in disposing of the goods. The evening was beautiful, and being moonlight, as was to be expected a large number of persons were present to see the display of fireworks and to enjoy the music furnished by the A.C. Band. The lights of the lake were lighted up with Chinese lanterns, and the effect was pleasing. Mr. W. Newman was in charge of the fireworks, and discharged his duties well. The display of fireworks was most effective, and it was heightened by the reflection upon the lake. Dancing was kept up on the green, and the A.C. Band performed a selection of music, the most melodies of which were echoed from hill and vale, and were appreciated by everyone. The members of the Botanical Gardens Board were present during the day and in the evening, and worked hard to make the affair a success.

TH, APRIL 8, 1882
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Botanical Gardens Board met on the 6th instant. Present: Captain Davidson (chairman), Dr. Gibbs, Messrs. Hughes, Davis, Ford, and Skewton.

The Funds.—Dr. Gibbs reported that the net proceeds received in aid of the funds from the Fancy Fair and Swimming Club Tournament amounted to £20. He stated that he had been requested by the ladies who worked for the Fancy Fair to ask that the money raised should be expended in further levelling the swamp.—It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Houston, "That the first work to be done out of the money in hand shall be the levelling of the swamp and further extension of the lawn."

Thanks.—Mr. Houston proposed and Mr. Houston seconded, "That the hearty thanks of this Board be tendered to the ladies for their able services at the Fancy Fair; and to the ladies and gentlemen who kindly contributed to aid of the same."—Carried.

The A.C. Band.—It was resolved, "That the thanks of the Board be tendered to the A.C. Band for their services at the Fancy Fair, and that they be asked to accept the sum of £5 as a contribution to the Band Fund."

Report on Work.—It was resolved, "That the Secretary be requested to report as to the amount and extent of work done in the Recreation Grounds during the past year."

Application for Sections.—D. Power applied for a lease of sections 1140 and 1180, Town of New Plymouth, at a rental of £1 per acre, for fourteen years.—The application was granted.

Secretary.—Mr. Houston was appointed secretary for the month.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, APRIL 22, 1882
RESCUE AT THE LAKE

At the Recreation Grounds on Wednesday last, a little boy named Edward Rowson, aged seven years, narrowly escaped drowning by falling into the lake. He accompanied his brother and another lad named Arthur Masters, who went to the lake for the purpose of bathing. While the two other boys were preparing for their dip, the younger boy went along the diving-board, and, when at the end of it, he slipped his footing, and fell into the water. Arthur Masters, seeing the accident, immediately jumped into the water and rescued the little fellow from drowning. We understand this is the second time young Masters has distinguished himself in this way, and he is entitled to some acknowledgment for his bravery. Possibly he may be thought too young to wear the Royal Humane Society's Medal, but he has certainly equal success with his seniors who have been awarded that distinction.

TH, JUNE 15, 1882
PLANT DONATION

Dr. Hester has forwarded to the Botanical Gardens Board a parcel, containing 17 different kinds of seeds, of shrubs, and trees, which will be a very valuable addition to the varieties already planted in the Recreation Grounds. The Board will be thankful to receive contributions of shrubs and seeds from the public, in order that the grounds may be further planted with ornamental trees, &c. Donations may be left at Mr. Ford's shop, Brougham-street.

TH, JULY 4, 1882
BOARD ASKS COUNCIL FOR FUNDS

Recreation Grounds.—Mr. Hughes said they waited upon the Council on behalf of the Recreation Grounds Board for the purpose of asking the assistance of the Council. At the last meeting of the Board the Finance were considered and they were found to be so low that a resolution was passed appointing Dr. Gibbs and himself as a deputation to wait on the Council and ask for a grant of money in aid of the Grounds. At present the permanent charges for maintaining the Grounds amounted to about £45 the cost of the swimming £25 of that was. The Board had not regular funds out of which to meet this permanent expenditure, and the members of the Board had already made themselves personally liable for money borrowed from the Bank. They could not carry on affairs any longer in this way, and they had resolved to ask the Council for a similar amount to that which had been voted previously in aid of the funds, viz. £20. If the Council could not help the Board, the only thing that remained to be done was for the Board to hand over the grounds to the Council, as it was a fair charge upon the Council. He also referred to the proposal which had been made to take an acre of ground from Poverty Flat for the purpose of a school site, and he hoped the Council would not agree to such a proposal, as it would spoil the square for purposes of recreation. He considered New Plymouth had not been ever liberally dealt with as regards public pleasure grounds, and he trusted the Council would judiciously guard against any encroachments upon the grounds already granted to the people for public amusement and recreation.—Dr. Gibbs said that the money asked for would, if granted, be expended in levelling the swamp, and when that was done he thought the Board would be able to derive a revenue sufficient for its requirements by letting the grounds for fairs, &c.—The Chairman asked if it was true that a petition had been got up asking the Council to grant this money, but the respondents refused to sign it?—Mr. Houston said he was sorry to admit that such was the case. The petition had been prepared and taken round for signatures, but it had been signed by so few respondents that the Board thought it advisable not to present the petition. Whether the respondents had refused to sign the petition, thinking that the funds of the Council were more urgently required for making roads or not, or whether some people were opposed to all amusement, he could not say.—Dr. Gibbs said the Board had made a mistake in lifting two men to take the petition round. If the members of the Board had taken the petition round themselves, he was sure the result would have been different.—Mr. Houston was opposed to the Council granting any money out of the rates for such a purpose when there were so many roads in the Borough in a disgraceful state. He thought they should be just before they were generous.—If the Council had funds to spare, he would gladly have seen the money granted to the Recreation Grounds; but as the funds of the Council were small, he must vote against it.—The Chairman said he believed that the majority of the respondents would rather see the money spent in making roads, and he, therefore, considered the Council should not grant the money.—Mr. Cove considered it was the duty of the Council to support the Recreation Grounds for the sake of ensuring the health of the town. The Council had received a warning letter from the Health Officer with regard to the sanitary condition of the town, and he thought the Council should do everything in its power to aid in maintaining the health of the inhabitants of the town.—Mr. Stewart was in favour of granting the application, and he proposed "That the application be referred to the Finance Committee," which was carried.

TH, JULY 5, 1882
BOARDS FINANCES CLARIFIED

The financial condition of the Recreation Grounds Board did not fully appear in our report of the Borough Council, and we have been supplied with the following additional particulars:—Permanent charge, £24 lbs. (for wages), and contingent expenses of about £20. To meet this there is an income of about £28 a year in rents. The members of the Board at present are the Bank about £20, and there are outstanding accounts of about £25 to be paid.

TH, JULY 25, 1882
SALMON IN THE LAKE

To-day two gentlemen observed in the lake at the Recreation Grounds two salmon—one about sixteen inches and the other twelve inches long.

TH, AUGUST 8, 1882
COUNCIL DEBATE FUNDING

Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee was read as follows:—That this Committee recommends the Council to give the Recreation Board the sum of £50; they should have been only too glad to advise the Council to give a larger amount, but as the roads and foot-paths in the Borough are in such a state they cannot propose any more.—Mr. HARRISON objected to the report as he had not received a notice of the meeting being held. He said the sum of £10 was too small to give to the Recreation Grounds, and he would advocate £50 being given.—Mr. NIXON also spoke in favour of a larger donation to the Board.—Mr. COCK moved, "That £50 be given instead of £10."—Mr. HARRISON objected to such a motion unless due notice were given of it according to the bye-laws.—Mr. HARRISON said that he would have liked to have voted more than £10, but he could not do so consistently when there were so many streets made.—Mr. KERN said that under the existing circumstances he could not vote for more than £10.—The Mayor was also in favour of only £10 being given.—Mr. HARRISON replied. He said that he looked upon the Ground as part of the municipal estate, and he thought they should do everything in their power to improve that estate. Persons would, no doubt be induced to come to settle in the district when they noticed that they were civilized enough to have good public gardens. He considered the sum of £50 would not be missed in the making of the streets, and if they would not support the Recreation Grounds until all the streets were made in the Borough, they might as well make up their minds never to give any support at all.—The Council divided on the question "that the Committee's report be confirmed," with the following result:—Ayes (5): Messrs. Hehringer, Shoppes, Russell, King, and Bayly. Noes (5): Messrs. Cock, Hodson, Humphries, Davis, and Nicoll. The Mayor gave his casting vote with the ayes, and the report was accordingly confirmed.

TH, AUGUST 30, 1882
IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

The public we well know that the Recreation Grounds Board are in almost a helpless state of impotency. It is, therefore, useless to expect them to do anything under the present circumstances towards carrying out improvements in the grounds under their charge. But we are glad to notice that private persons have taken the matter up, and several gentlemen have come forward with proposals very liberally in order to carry on the work of ornamenting and improving the grounds, so that the town need not be ashamed of the place that has been set apart for public recreation and amusement. On entering the grounds from the Carrington Road, the visitor finds several men at work clearing a swamp to the left of the walk. This work is for the purpose of making an ornamental pond, which Mr. Hughes has kindly undertaken to construct at his own expense. A few yards lower down where the rain are engaged working it is intended to make a ladies' bathing-pond and to erect a suitable building-house. There is an excellent site for the purpose, with an ample supply of water, but as this will most likely be undertaken by the Board, it cannot be expected to be executed for some time yet, until the Board shall itself in funds again, so that the prospect of the fair made and increased departing themselves in their aquatic exercises is somewhat in the distance. Further on, within a few yards of the lake, Mr. Farlow has expended a considerable sum of money *pro bono publico*. He has erected a fountain with a jet of about 9 feet, which plays in the centre of a neatly finished basin formed of turf sods, and of suitable extent. Mr. Farlow has also arranged to have an ornamental earthen basin about five feet high, into which the fountain will play, and the space will afterwards descend to the lower basin. This, when completed, will be an exceedingly handsome feature. The effect of the fountain is heightened by a series of well formed cascades running past it from the lake immediately above. Close to the fountain an ornamental pond has been made of considerable extent, and will be very suitable for gold and silver fish. When the full design is carried out there will be three ornamental ponds at regular intervals, extending from close to the entrance at the Carrington Road up near to the lake. On the other side of the hill where there is at present a swamp it is most likely that another series of ponds will be made with cascades, so that chains starting at the top of the hill will have the delightful prospect of three ornamental ponds on either side and the lake in front. It is not expected that all this will be completed for some time, but it has been set out on the plan of the grounds which has been prepared. Mr. Farlow, we understand, will shortly erect on the crown of the hill a flagstaff, on which will be fixed a large "tell tale" vane, which will no doubt prove of itself to be very attractive to visitors. It is a large glass ball which reflects the surrounding objects from a considerable distance. We must not forget to mention the two structures of "the Green," which have been fixed in the lake on either side, and are also the gift of Mr. Farlow. It is needless to say that they adorn the lake and arrest the attention of visitors. Another gentleman has intimated his intention of erecting a small iron bridge across the lake and situated nearly at its head for the

convenience of the public, so that they can cross from one side of the lake to the other without being under the necessity of making a long detour as at present. This will be a useful as well as an ornamental gift, and we feel sure it will be duly appreciated.

It is gratifying to find gentlemen of sufficient public spirit to bestow both time and money to the accomplishment of the improvements we have mentioned, and it is one of the worst guarantees that the Recreation Grounds will not be allowed to become a wilderness of desolation. When private enterprise can accomplish so much, it is very amazing, and leads us to hope for better things to come. There is one space to the guardians of the grounds, that is the place set apart for a lawn. Work was vigorously commenced in cutting down the hill in Larch-street for the purpose of filling in the swamp and making a lawn and cricket ground, but when this object was scarcely half accomplished the funds of the Board were exhausted, and it was necessary to suspend operations. Of course the grounds can never be said to be complete until a lawn has been made, and it is to be hoped that sufficient funds will be raised to complete the work. The Acclimatization Society might be induced to help in some way, as they have, we believe, a good balance in hand, which they have no immediate use for. We are not aware how far the Society might feel themselves justified in expending their funds, but we can safely assert that it is customary in other places in the Colony—Auckland and Dunedin especially—for the Acclimatization Societies to assist in ornamenting the public domains and pleasure grounds. We merely throw out the suggestion for the consideration of the members of the Acclimatization Society, and we are sure, if they can see their way to render some assistance in the manner indicated, such action would meet with public favour.

If the promoters of the fancy fair held last year in the grounds would take the matter in hand, and endeavor to get up another, it would no doubt be as successful as the last proved to be. Of course, in such matters the greater portion of the work falls on one or two willing hands, and it cannot be expected that they will also be able to come to the front. Other persons might come forward now and take an active part in arranging preliminaries for the next fair. The aid of the ladies is, of course, indispensable, but we feel sure their aid will not be sought in vain or given unwillingly. It is a matter of public benefit, and everyone should feel interested in the matter and do what they can to promote the public good.

TH, SEPTEMBER 5, 1882
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
LETTER FROM REC BOARD

Recreation Grounds.—A letter was read from the Recreation Grounds Board, enclosing a resolution passed by the Board to the effect that the Grounds be handed over to the Borough Council. The Chairman of the Board also stated that unless the Borough would grant £100 per annum the above resolution would have to be carried out.—Mr. HARRISON said the matter required consideration, and the provisions of the Act studied before the Council could come to a decision on the matter. He, therefore, moved, "That the matter be adjourned until the next meeting."—Mr. DAVEN said the Act gave power to the Recreation Grounds Board to hand

to the Recreation Grounds Board to hand the Grounds over to the Borough.—Mr. HURSTON proposed as an amendment, "That the sum of £40 be voted to the Recreation Grounds Board."—Exception was taken to the amendment on the ground that notice of motion must be given.—Mr. HURSTON asked the leave of the Council to move it without notice, but leave was refused.—Mr. HURSTON then gave notice that he would move the resolution at the next meeting of the Council.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 21, 1882
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

A meeting of the Botanical Gardens Board was held on Tuesday evening. *Present:* Messrs. J. Davidson (chairman), J. T. Davis, Ford, Hughes, Skinner, and Dr. Gibbs.

Government Vote.—The SECRETARY read a telegram from Mr. T. Kelly, M.H.E., informing the Board that no vote had been placed on the estimate for the Recreation Grounds at New Plymouth.

Credit.—A letter was read from Mr. Baker, Manager of the Bank of New Zealand, requesting payment of the Board's overdraft.—It was resolved, "That a letter be written to the Accreditation Society requesting their cooperation and assistance in carrying out the improvement of the grounds."

Vote of Thanks.—A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. T. Farlow for his kind and generous donations towards the improvement of the grounds.

Overseer.—Mr. Skinner was requested to remain overseer of the grounds for the ensuing month.

Fancy Dress Ball.—Dr. Gibbs stated that the ladies were getting up a Children's Fancy Dress Ball in aid of the funds of the Board.

The Board then adjourned.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 22, 1882
FUNDRAISING**

**A JUVENILE FANCY DRESS
BALL**

WILL be held at the Free-school Hall on TUESDAY, 29th October, at 7 p.m., for the benefit of the Recreation Grounds.

Admission 2s.—Children under 12, 1s.; and 4s. for 12, 16, ladies, 2s. 6d.; gentlemen, 3s. 6d.; to be obtained from Mrs. Humphries, Mrs. Gibbs, Miss Allen, and Miss Connor.

Owing to the number of the ball, parents and those in charge of children will only be able to obtain tickets.

J. MURRAY GIBBS,

1882 21 22

Exec. Sec.

TH, OCTOBER 5, 1882

JUVENILE FANCY DRESS BALL.

The Free-school Hall had a gay assembly on Tuesday evening, on the occasion of the Juvenile Fancy Dress Ball, which was given in aid of the funds of the Recreation Grounds. About 200 persons of both sexes, and all ages from two years old to venerable old age, were present, the youthful portion of the company appearing in fancy dress costumes. The scene was one of complete enjoyment, and the bearing faces of the promoters testified how extremely happy they were in their gay and attractive dresses. Probably the most consequential little figure in all the

group was General Tom Thumb, a little "three-year-old," who gallantly led a little tribe into the ball-room. It was an amusing spectacle to see the children doing the "finger polka" and other country dances with zest and animation. A number of white triangles with the promise to encourage them in dancing, and to put some of the little ones through their figures, the result being that grown-up persons and little "dolls" were to be seen dancing together in the most graceful of attitudes. At 10 p.m., all the little fellows under nine years old were taken into the supper-room, and were regaled with refreshments of all kinds. The other children followed, and the Committee had their treat fully accepted for an hour and a half attending to the young people. Foremost amongst those who were thronged was Mrs. Humphries, whose sole enjoyment appeared to be in according to the wants of the "rising generation." Mrs. Gibbs, Dr. Gibbs, Mr. Black, and others were also devoted to their duties. The refreshments were under the superintendance of Mr. Walter Black, who gave his valuable services freely, and the ladies were obtained, free of cost, from the store-keepers in town. The expenses incurred were consequently very light, and a large margin of profit was thus available for the funds of the Board. The music was supplied chiefly by members of the Philharmonic Society; and Mr. Hunt acted as B.C. After 10 o'clock, the children retired, and the adults were afforded an opportunity of enjoying themselves. Many of the fancy costumes of the ladies were well worthy of notice, but want of space precludes our doing so.

Owing to our list of names of the juveniles not being completed in time for to-day's issue, we have to postpone publishing them till to-morrow.

**TH, OCTOBER 13, 1882
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

A meeting of the Recreation Board was held at the usual place (Mr. Ford's book workshop) last Tuesday evening, when there were present: Captain Davidson (in the chair), Dr. Gibbs, Messrs. T. S. Skinner, E. Ford, B. C. Hughes, and J. T. Davis. The public were represented by Mr. Electoral Fellow and Mr. Doris Claffey.

The SECRETARY reported that he had got out of paper the £100 p. note, which the members had given ten months ago to secure the Board's overdraft, and much emotion was exhibited on the 50s. bit of paper was handed round for inspection, and they all said they would never do it again.

The late grant of £80 from the Borough was also reported and thankfully acknowledged, but the joy of the members was not abated when the greater part of it was found to be wanted for the following accounts, which were presented and passed for payment:—J. Selkirk, 1s. 6d.; J. C. Green, 18s.; Ness, 21 5s. 6d.; W. Dingle, 21 18s. 6d.; Webster Bros.' estate, 16s. 6d.; J. Nichol, 18s. 6d.; J. T. Davis, 21 4s. D. Claffey, 24 18s. 7d. Total, £31 1s. [The account is detailed, because the ladies want to know what we do with our money.]

In view of a regular subsidy from the Borough, and of the absorption of the Accreditation Society, the Board determined to abandon the idea proposed at a late meeting to hand over the tract to the Borough. Cleared by its brighter prospects, the members discussed long and earnestly the necessity of throwing more vigor into its proceedings; and with this object the resignation of the old and the election of new officers was suggested. The interrupted carrying out of this idea was accompanied by such losses and expenses as to threaten the existence of the body, and

dire confusion was prevented only by an immediate return to the status quo. It was, however, resolved that the Chairman should exercise certain functions hitherto left to the Secretary, and that he should ask the Mayor for the use of the Council Chamber for future meetings. With a severe glance at the talkative members the Chairman said that when we get into our new quarters he would insist upon the observance of the ordinary rules of debate.

Several minor matters came up for consideration. These included the strawberry question, and that of the education of Mr. Guffy in the care of monkeys, goats, buffaloes, elephants, serpents, and the other interesting animals which the Accreditation Society may propose to let loose on the grounds.

Mr. Skinner, whose able administration has tended greatly to the amelioration of the grounds, was appointed overseer till the end of the year.

**TH, OCTOBER 16, 1882
PARATAWHITI FERNS DONATED**

Mr. Thomas Wilson has sent to Mr. Skinner to have planted in the Botanical Gardens a few Paratawhiti ferns. In his letter to Mr. Skinner, Mr. Wilson writes:—"I discuss in his paper on local products of ancient Maori days: 'Another magnificent fern, Para-of the Maori (Paratawhiti fern), was also an article of food. The large, woody, trunk-like pieces of its big tuberosous roots were used for this purpose. It inhabits deep places, and was very scarce. I never found it but once in the Forest of the White River, Bay of Islands. When I took off my hat to it its large arching fronds were ten to twelve feet in length. It is plentiful enough in the Upper district, but only grows in patches in deep gullies."

**TH, OCTOBER 17, 1882
TAKINGS FROM JUVENILE BALL**

The ladies of New Plymouth, headed by Mrs. Humphries, are again to the front in raising funds for the Botanical Gardens. This time a Juvenile Fancy Ball was got up by them, from which they realized £24 17s. 4d. The expenses amounted to £11 18s. 10d., and were as follows:—Mr. Walter Black, for refreshments, £6 18s.; Mrs. Curtis and Mr. Cook, attendance, £3 10s.; Druggists, 10s.; advertising, 10s.; sundries, £3 10s.—having a balance of £22 2s. 6d., which Mrs. Humphries and the ladies of the Committee handed yesterday to Captain Davidson, suggesting at the same time that they would like to see the money expended in improving the lawn. The members of the Botanical Gardens Board have requested us to tender their thanks to the ladies for their donation, and to intimate that their suggestion shall be carried out.

**TH, OCTOBER 20, 1882
LAWN WANTED BY LADIES**

At a meeting of the Botanical Gardens Board it was agreed to at once carry out the suggestion of the ladies with regard to the formation of a lawn, and tenders are called for soliciting a portion of the swamp to enable this work to be done.

**TH, OCTOBER 27, 1882
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

The Botanical Gardens Board, having again a small balance to their credit at the bank, have resolved to carry out further improvements in the Recreation Grounds. It has been decided to erect shower-baths at the waterfall, and the laws will be completed as quickly as possible.

**TH, OCTOBER 27, 1882
SWAMP TENDER ACCEPTED**

Three tenders for reclaiming the swamp in the Recreation Ground were sent in, and the lowest accepted. They are as follows:—G. Thomson (accepted), £17 13s.; R. Moore, £14 13s. 11d.; H. Fox, £25.

**TH, NOVEMBER 2, 1882
PRUSSIAN CARP DONATED**

It is gratifying to notice how much interest is manifested by the public in the Recreation Grounds, and this is with pleasure we notice a number of donations to the Botanical Gardens Board. Mrs. D. Shuttleworth has given 25 Prussian carp, which have been floated in the ornamental water, as follows: 4 in the pond made by Professor Farlow, below the fountain; 8 in the basin of the fountain; and 11 in the lake. Mr. Shuttleworth has promised a donation of gold fish in a few months, and Mrs. Shuttleworth will also contribute a further supply of Prussian carp. Mr. W. Newman has signified his intention of presenting some gold fish, and Mr. Nicholson has sent to Canterbury to procure more carp and gold fish. These numerous presents show that the public are not inconsiderable of the efforts put forth by the Botanical Gardens Board to make a valuable ground for public recreation and amusement.

TH, NOVEMBER 6, 1882

PROMENADE CONCERT.

A PROMENADE CONCERT will be given in the Recreation Grounds by the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Band on Thursday, the 6th November, commencing at 7 o'clock p.m.

Admission to Grounds—Adults, 3s.; Children, 6d.

JAMES DAVIDSON,
M.B. & C. Chairman, Recreation Board.

**TH, NOVEMBER 6, 1882
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

A MEETING of the Botanical Gardens Board was held on Friday evening. Present: Messrs. J. Davidson (chairman), Hughes, Ford, Gibson, Gray, and Skinner.

Donations.—The Secretary notified that he had received £70 from the Borough Council, and £23 1s. 6d. from the Committee of Ladies in connection with the late Children's Fancy Dress Ball. Also that Mr. T. Wilson had contributed a number of New Zealand fern trees, and Mr. Shuttleworth a number of Prussian carp.—Votes of thanks were passed to the donors.

Finance.—The Secretary was instructed to notify the trustees of the Board that all fence must be cleared off the Board's property.

Working.—It was resolved that tenders be called for the right of depositing from 200 to 300 sheep on certain portions of the grounds, on certain conditions.

Reclamation.—The Secretary stated that the contractor for the reclamation of the swamp had commenced work, and would finish it within the contract time.

Concert.—An offer was received from the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Band to the effect that they would give an open air concert in the grounds on the 26th November, in aid of the funds of the Board.—The offer was accepted, and it was agreed that the charge for admission should be—adults, 1s.; children, 6d.

Swimming Club.—The following Committee was appointed to manage the affairs of the Swimming Club at the Recreation Grounds:—Messrs. Gray, Skinner, and Dr. Gibson; and it was decided that the members' subscription to the Club should be 2s. 6d. for the season.

The Board then adjourned.

**TH, NOVEMBER 7, 1882
FUNDRAISING**

**PROGRAMME OF VOLUNTEER
BAND.**

The Volunteer Band will play the following pieces in the Recreation Ground on Thursday evening next, commencing at 7 p.m.:—

- March, "Light of London;" Valse, "Lucky Stars;" Overture, "Red Cross;" Schottische, "Kulturstrom;" Valse, "Saw-sets;" Quadrill, "King's Dragoon;" March, "Faded Flower;" Valse, "Little Queen;" Overture, "Hibernian;" Ode, "Hark the Lark;" "God Save the Queen."

**TH, NOVEMBER 25, 1882
IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE**

At this time of year the Recreation Ground is a great source of attraction, and the public are certainly indebted to those who have devoted their time and given their money towards beautifying the place. Mr. Farlow was amongst the first to give donations, and has erected a fountain and placed fountains on the lake. Mr. R. C. Hargreaves had a pool constructed, which adds to the picturesque of the grounds. Several others have promised to contribute and aid in beautifying the place. Amongst them is Dr. O'Carroll, who is going to erect a fountain. A third of an acre has been added to the lawn, and the other improvements going on are all tending to make the grounds an agreeable place of resort.

**TH, DECEMBER 2, 1882
FIRST MENTION OF BAND ROTUNDA**

At a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board held recently, a plan of a band pavilion was submitted by Mr. Edmunds, assistant, the estimated cost of the building being between £70 and £80. The design of the pavilion is both suitable and ornamental, and was approved of by the Board. It was decided that the pavilion should be erected at the least on which Mr. Farlow's tower stands; but in order to cover the cost of the building the band is expected to give as many concerts as will enable the Board to defray the cost from the proceeds of the concerts. Messrs. Davidson and Skinner were appointed to make arrangements for carrying out the work.

**TH, DECEMBER 28, 1882
ANOTHER FOUNTAIN**

We notice that another fountain has been erected in the Recreation Grounds, a short distance below Professor Farlow's fountain. It is fixed in the centre of the pond near the lake, and is the gift of Dr. O'Carroll, who has gone to considerable expense in presenting it, and having it fixed. We are glad to see so many persons assisting the Board in adding to the attractiveness of the grounds by such acceptable donations, and the Board must feel very thankful for their assistance. It is to be hoped that every care will be taken to preserve these gifts from damage, and surely no one would be so base as to wilfully injure or destroy them. We regret that damage has been done to one of the statues placed in the lake by Mr. T. Farlow; but we are glad to see it was not the result of design, but rather that of accident.—One of the ladies thoughtlessly clatching the statue while bathing in the pond, and breaking it. Such carelessness, however, is reprehensible in itself, and does not tend to encourage private persons to put their hands in their pockets for the purpose of carrying out improvements.

**TH, DECEMBER 29, 1882
PROMENADE CONCERT**

The promenade concert at the Recreation Grounds last evening was not as successful as could have been desired, owing to the inclemency of the weather. Although the night was fine and clear, the ground was very wet, making matters very unpleasant for a promenade. The attendance consequently was small, and those present contented themselves with surrounding the band near the bathing-house, and listening to the music, which was excellent. It is to be hoped that these concerts will be held periodically during the fine weather, and no doubt they will prove a source of amusement to the public and materially augment the funds of the Board. The concert taken at the gates last evening was £2 13s. 6d.



Professor Furlong's fountain with the waterfall at the SW corner of the Hatchery Lawn behind. The opening in the hillside above the fountain is an old glowworm cave. (Puke Ariki PHO2007-027)



One of Professor Furlong's alabaster Graces. Unfortunately they were not very durable and both statues were broken by March 1885 (NPDC Parks Dept).

1883

The year began with an emphasis on fundraising which took the form of Ye Olde English Fayre. This was a huge event which lasted 5 days and bolstered the coffers of the Board considerably. However, the big story of the year was The Poet's Bridge. Mr James Thomas Davis, a prominent figure in town and a trustee of the Recreation Ground since its inception, had the good fortune to win a large sum of money from a horse racing sweepstake at the Auckland Autumn handicap. The horse was called "The Poet". Davis, an active member of the Board had often thought about having a bridge halfway down the lake, he felt the lake would not be complete until a bridge was built. The windfall meant that he could make his dream come true. People were invited to supply bridge designs on the understanding that the design was *gratis*. The design chosen was that of Henry Vere Barclay, Civil Engineer & surveyor. The construction contract was won by Mr Hooker. Mr Campbell was the sub-contractor for the woodwork, Mr Revell the iron work, and Mr Bellringer the painting. Bridge construction started in November 1883.

Two Black Swans were donated to the Board from Mr Vavasour of Blenheim. Unfortunately, one died on the ship bringing the birds and the second died shortly after being let loose in the lake. Dogs were becoming a nuisance worrying the waterfowl so a notice was placed in the *Taranaki Herald* stating that dogs found in the park would be shot. The author has found no evidence that this threat was ever carried out.

The Board received two packets of seeds from the government: one of eucalyptus, or blue gum and one of golden wattle.

Summary of significant events

- The dam in the Hughes pond breached.
- Ye Old English Fayre—fundraising.
- Designs of The Poet's Bridge called for.
- H. V. Barclay's Design chosen for The Poet's Bridge.
- Hooker and Campbell awarded contract for bridge construction.
- Bridge construction started.

TH, JANUARY 6, 1883
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A MEETING of the Recreation Ground Board was held on Friday evening. Present: Messrs. J. Davidson (chairman), Davis, Ford, Gibbes, Hughes, and Skinner.

Drawing Pavilion.—A letter was read from the Town Board, in reply to a letter sent from the Board requesting the Board to guarantee a certain number of concerts at the Recreation Grounds, in order to assist in defraying the cost of the erection of a pavilion.—The Board declined to accept any responsibility in the matter, or to give any guarantee; but intimated their willingness to render every assistance they could.—A Committee, consisting of Dr. Gibbes and Mr. Davidson, was appointed to wait on the Board and endeavor to make arrangements for the erection of the pavilion.

Lawlessness.—The Chairman was requested to take any measures necessary to suppress any disorderly conduct in the Recreation Grounds, as many complaints had been received of females being subjected to insult in the grounds by disorderly young fellows.

Governer.—Mr. Skinner was appointed governer for the year, with full power to approve and carry out alterations and improvements to the grounds.

Thanks.—Votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Ford, Secretary, and Mr. Skinner, Governer, for their services during the past year.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, JANUARY 16, 1883
SWANS DONATED

Mr. Yarrow sent from Berhain, by the ss. Wazaha, which arrived here on Sunday, a pair of black swans as a donation to the Recreation Grounds, but unfortunately one of the swans died on the passage. The other swan has been placed in the ornamental water. We believe it is the intention of the Board to endeavor to procure a number of swans from Auckland. The Board and the public will feel grateful to Mr. Yarrow, who is an old Yamahiti settler, for his kindness in sending the swans, and it is to be regretted that both birds did not arrive in safety. The Board, however, will probably be able to procure swans in a short time, which will add to the attractiveness of the lake.

TH, JANUARY 17, 1883

DOGS IN THE RECREATION GROUND.

SWANS having been placed in the Ornamental Water in the Recreation Grounds, persons visiting there are requested **NOT TO BRING THEIR DOGS.**

All DOGS found within the enclosure after this notice will be SHOT.

JAS. DAVIDSON,
 Chairman Recreation Grounds Board.

TH, JANUARY 20, 1883
SWAN DIES

The swan which was liberated at the Recreation Ground a few days ago died last night. The Board appear to be very unfortunate in their endeavours to impart swans.

TH, FEBRUARY 1, 1883

OH YES! OH YES! OH YES!!

Ye Olde English Fayre

FOR YE BENEFITTE OF
 YE RECREATION GROUND.

Grand Opening Ceremony—

WEDNESDAYE,

WITH FERRYE, MDCCLXXXIII,
 At ye Halle y'oldeppol' Alexandrie.

Ye Masters of ye Olde English Fayre: thus danceth their macke!

Ye Alexandrie Halle is lined up to resemble an Olde English Street, with rows of shops, with their awnings, ye lanes of wyles in aid for ye shoppers or strollers.

YE MACK FOLE
 is in ye centre of ye Halle, round which at times ye gods will dance.

YE OLDE CHELSEA SUN-HOUSE.

YE LADIES
 in Ancient Costumes, will add beauty to ye scene.

YE FUNNIE CLOWNES,
YE GYPSIES ON YE VILLAGE GREEN.

YE GRAND RICHARDSON SHOWE,

is which ye beautiful Tragicke and ye beautiful Comedies will be performed by **MISTERS HARRY POWER** and **DANIEL ENGLORIAN.**

Ye prices to enter in—Opening Ceremony: Hall-covers; all other games and amusements, One Shilling.

Ye Ferrye wylde bagge wylde YILL by ye clocke, and wylde clocke as ye clocke strikes halfe-past N.

OH YES! OH YES! OH YES!

Come see and alle—dole and powery!

GOD SAVE YE QUEENE!

1883

TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1883

YE OLD ENGLISH FAYRE

As Old English Fairy Fayre will be opened in the Alexandra Hall to-morrow and following evenings for a week. The Fayre, which is in aid of the Botanical Gardens fund, is certainly a great novelty, and one that is likely to be cordially appreciated. Everything that can be thought of as necessary to make the entertainment attractive and amusing has been brought into requisition. An Old English Street is very ably represented, and the shops under the old fashioned sign-boards which were necessary when only a favoured few could read, are to be compared as stalls for the exhibition of a very great variety of articles, and a number of ladies have undertaken to be the pretty shop-keepers. The buildings are in appearance such as were seen in London during the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the old-fashioned gables, lattice windows, and roofs covered with red tiles, are quaint and picturesque. There is a large refreshment stall called Ye Chelsea Sun House, where any quantity of beer may be had. We must not attempt to describe the place too fully, but must leave it to the visitors to see for themselves. To-morrow evening it will be opened formally, and as it can only be opened "once," everyone should be there to witness the proceedings.

YE OLDE ENGLISH FAYRE.

Last night the attendance at the Alexandra Hall was unusually large, and everything connected with the fair went off splendidly. The business at the shops was brisk, and the Richardson's Show was crowded at each performance. The tent of the Gipsies was removed to the main hall, which was a great improvement, as the fair fortune-tellers had a much better opportunity of carrying on their business successfully. All the arrangements seemed to be more complete, and the performers had settled down into their allotted positions, so that affairs went very smoothly, and there was no "slowdown" experienced throughout the evening. The gentlemen who appeared in fancy dress were more numerous, and they were to be found in all directions among the crowd creating fun and amusement wherever they went. The elegant piece of mechanism called the stocks, so beautifully designed for the correction of men's morals, was tried, and the individual who was made an example of did not appear to have a happy time of it. Customs and manners change, and although the stocks would be condemned in the 19th century, it was an exceedingly useful institution in its day. The acting of Miss Lolo de Illerian and Mr. Harry Power in the different pieces at the Richardson's Show was excellent, and they were loudly applauded at the close of each performance. This part of the Fair appears to be exceedingly popular, for no matter is the room vacated by one customer than it is re-filled by another. The ladies had a share of the patronage, and the ladies who have charge of this department are very agreeable to the visitors. Perhaps one of the best pieces available for the public last night was the platform, and we noticed that during the whole evening it was a favorite resort. It was pleasant to withdraw for a short time from the crowd, and take up a position on the platform where a good view can be obtained of the whole proceedings. The gallery hitherto has not been made available for the public; but the committee instead opening it to-night at the small price of sixpence, in addition to the entrance to the hall. A splendid view can be obtained from it of the Maypole dance. The whole of the gallery has previously been occupied by the band, which was a great waste of space, and we are sure the public will fully appreciate the additional advantages which will be given this evening.

To-night new pieces will be produced in the Show, and we think that the attractions of the Fayre generally are so genuine that throughout the season the Hall will be crowded.

YE OLDE ENGLISH FAYRE.

We wandered through the fascinating and bewildering maze of the Fayre again last night, and the scenes of old were so graphically re-produced that we seemed to lose our identity with the present age, and were wuffed back to those good "old days," the history of which we read of in Pegg's diary or Evelyn's Memoirs. How happy the little village children seemed with their gaily coloured kirts and new white caps. There they were, as Pegg saw them, twin figures and merry waltzers, dancing round the Maypole of an "old lyenal Fayre." Then the age of Pops is brought prominently before the eye—the period of powder and patches—when make-up on the face was considered a mark of beauty. There was girlish too—very girlish, in their modest and good "balags"—the devoted visitors to the picturesque encampment, where their queen told fortunes. She assured single men that they would marry rich wives—the told married men that they would marry again and come into large fortunes—she whispered to the trembling maiden that a "darling" was on his way to New Zealand to marry her—and sternly informed wives that their husbands were not so good to them as they should be, and that they had better die of a broken heart in order to punish the bad men for their vile treatment of them. We fear the young lady who told fortunes at the Fair will have much to answer for, but we are sure that Uncle Toby's recording angel will wipe out the penitence with a bar, especially as she stands for a praiseworthy purpose.

Owing to the crowd and the ceaseless activity of the ladies it was almost impossible to get a good look at these individuals, and the only chance was when they pertinaciously solicited a man for a raffle, saying "do go in for this raffle; no only a shilling." Thus the victims in order to get as much as possible for their money persist in saying "No," and holding out until the full value of money had been lavished on them; reluctantly give in and paid the money. And as each phoney face passed before us we read the old legends and romantic stories of the fanciful dreamer of the period. Such a scene revives for the moment the time when wrapped widows loved, and bold swains planned stolen kisses, while "Heddel moon-troopers rode the hill," while the wooded-peak paced the monastic corridors meditatively, and the Abbot "half warrior and half priest" rose from his solemn office in the richly-appointed abbey; and soon his arrested legions to battle.

All this has passed away. The light and color of the old days have gone out, and we have but a shadowy representation of the good "old times" in the Fayre now open. However, aided by the good taste of the ladies, the scenery and the antiquated setting of the whole affair, we can trace again the poetry of the past, bringing fresh to the memory the various characters and scenes so vividly depicted by Sir Walter Scott. The Richardson Show is of more modern date, but it brings back to the memory the happy days of boyhood—when the "sprungled bodicemed" performers were looked up to with stunted reverence. Madame Leta de Gloria and Mr. Harry Power were grand in their elaboration of a Richardson Show

tragedy; while the other gentlemen successfully played their parts. This part of the Fayre has attracted well, and will add a considerable sum to the treasury. On ascending to the stage, the illness of "old times" is suddenly dispelled, and we are ourselves again. Here we found a number of attentive ladies ready to supply us with a cup of tea. "That thin soft, chocolate, sage, and venereal liquid—those female tongue—running, snail-scooting, heart-squeezing, wink-tipping cordial, to whose glacial hospitality I owe the happiest moment of my life, let me fall prostrate," says Colley Usher—and his praise is not too high for a cup of this beverage—it is so very refreshing after coming from the over-heated hall. The Fayre will be opened this evening with fresh attractions.

TH, FEBRUARY 12, 1883

THE OLDE ENGLISH FAYRE

On Saturday evening the public again liberally patronised the Olde English Fayre, there being fresh attractions in the shape of new dramas and pantomimes. It speaks well for the management of the Fayre that it should have such a successful season, and the result will probably be that a handsome sum will be realised for the benefit of the Recreation Grounds. The Richardson show was awarded throughout the evening, and that fact is a high compliment to the abilities of Mr. Power and Miss de Gloria. Mr. Johnson, the clever clown, and the gentlemen who render assistance, Richard III. was played for the first time on Saturday, and it passed off with great success.

This evening there will be an extra attraction, as presents will be given away to every one entering. After the show is over the floor of the Hall will be swept, and all gentlemen paying 2s. 6d. on entering will be allowed to participate in the sweep which follows. No additional charge will be made for the ladies. There will be a full orchestra.

TH, FEBRUARY 13, 1883

THE OLDE ENGLISH FAYRE.

Last night the Alexandra Hall was again crowded, and everything passed off pleasantly. The May Pole dance was given twice during the evening, and on each occasion the dance was cleverly performed. The marionnet of the clown and his company in fancy dress costumes made the hall ring with laughter, especially when they joined in the May Pole dance with the juveniles. The Richardson Show was well attended during each performance. The concert, which was composed for the most part of music songs, was an agreeable variation of the programme, and took well. Another edition of *St. Mercury* was being sold during the evening. Amongst its contents was "A leaf from Mr. Pops' diary," giving a description of the Olde English Fancy Fayre; an article on houses and restaurants, and some odd stories.

This evening will bring the Fayre to a close, and at 10 o'clock the hall will be cleared for a dance. This of itself will no doubt prove specially attractive to the young people, and as it is the last night of the Fayre there is sure to be another large attendance.

ANNUAL SWIMMING TOURNAMENT.

THE ANNUAL SWIMMING TOURNAMENT

will be held on the lake in the Recreation Grounds on

WEDNESDAY, 28th FEBRUARY.

PROGRAMME:

1. 50 YARDS BACK (open). First prize £1 10s, 2nd 10s; entrance 2s 6d.
2. 50 YARDS RACE (for boys under 12). First prize 5s; entrance 1s.
3. 100 YARDS RACE (open). First prize £1 10s; entrance 2s 6d.
4. 100 YARDS BOYS' RACE (under 17). £1; entrance 2s.
5. OLYMPIAN HALF-MILE (handicap—open.) First prize £3, 2nd £1, 3rd £1; entrance 5s. No third prize unless more than six starters.
6. 50 YARDS BACK RACE (open.) £1; entrance 2s.
7. 100 YARDS CONSOLATION RACE. £1; entrance 2s.

Also—Tab Race, Ormsay Rig, Ornamental Swimming, &c.

JAMES DAVIDSON,

271 137 Chairman of Recreation Ground.

TH, FEBRUARY 21, 1883

YE OLDE ENGLISH FAYRE RECEIPTS

THE OLDE ENGLISH FANCY FAIR.

The following memorandum of the receipts and expenditures of The Old English Fair for the benefit of the Recreation Ground, held in the Alexandra Hall, has been handed to us for publication:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Taken at door	105	4	10			
Richardson Show	52	5	4			
				157	10	0
Donations				5	9	8
Sale of Mercury				2	7	2
Gigster's Tent				5	10	2
				170	27	2

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sundry expenses	12	15	0			
Mr. Gibb's proportion of profits	12	0	1			
				24	15	1
Balance at credit of Recreation Grounds				146	12	1

JAMES DAVIDSON,
Chairman of Board.
MARION FIFE,
Secretary.

New Plymouth, Feb. 20, 1883.

TH, FEBRUARY 23, 1883

HUGHES POND—DAM BREACH

The dam of Mr. Hughes' ornamental pond in the Recreation Grounds, has given way, owing to the heavy flood, and a large number of Prussian carp have been lost.

The annual meeting of the Botanical Gardens Board was held on Thursday evening. Present: Mr. J. Davidson (chairman), Dr. Gibben, Messrs. Davis, Hughes, Skinner, and Ford.

Balance sheet.—The SECRETARY read the annual balance-sheet, which showed a balance in hand of £33—the total receipts for the year being £193, and the expenditures £161.—The balance-sheet was adopted.

High School Plot.—A letter was read from Mr. Tom, second teacher of the High School, requesting permission to lay out and plant a piece of ground to be called the "High School Plot."—The application was granted subject to the work being carried out under the supervision of Mr. Skinner.

Fancy Bazaar.—It was resolved, "That the sum of £10 be set aside for procuring material, &c., for a Fancy Fair and Bazaar, to be held in the Recreation Grounds at a future date.

Improvement of Lawn.—The Board decided to expend a sum not exceeding £25 on the further extension of the lawn, and Mr. Skinner was requested to prepare specifications for the work.

New Zealand Seeds.—An application was received from Mr. B. Gulliver, of Anson's Vale Nursery, Townsville, Queensland, requesting a supply of New Zealand seeds and ferns in exchange for Queensland seeds and plants.—The Board decided to accede to the application at the earliest opportunity.

Thanks.—It was resolved, "That a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to the ladies and gentlemen who rendered valuable services at the recent Old English Fair, thereby substantially aiding the funds of the Board. A vote of thanks was also tendered to Mr. R. Thompson for the assistance he gave to the Committee in carrying out the arrangements in connection with the Fair; and a special vote of thanks was given to the Volunteer Band.

This concluded the business.

TH, FEBRUARY 28, 1883

RECREATION GROUNDS.

TENDERS FOR EXTENSION TO LAWS.

TENDERS will be received, addressed to the undersigned, up to noon on WEDNESDAY, the 1st March, for an EXTENSION TO LAWS in the Recreation Grounds. Specifications and plans may be seen at the office of Skinner & Sole, the Board's Surveyors.

JAMES DAVIDSON,
Chairman Recreation Board.
477 ml

TH, MARCH 1, 1883
SWIMMING COMPETITION RESULTS

The Annual Aquatic Sports was held in the lake at the Recreation Grounds yesterday afternoon, and although the day was fine, the attendance of spectators was not so large as hitherto. Some of the matches were well contested, and on the whole there was a marked improvement in the form of the majority of the swimmers. There were nine competitors in the Grand Half-mile Race, but the handicapping was not considered good, broad being handicapped too heavily; nevertheless, he managed to secure third place. The only exciting part of the race was the struggle at the finish between Broad and Rogers for third honours. After rounding the first buoy, Gibson led through the remainder of the race, and won easily, Graham being second, and Broad third. The Long Dive contest was won by R. C. Hughes, with a splendid dive of 45 yards. He was badly misjudged, most of the other competitors coming within 10 yards of him. In the Back Race some of the swimmers imagined they had covered the distance when they had reached the buoy, and accordingly slackened speed, only to find that they had lost the race by so doing, as they had to touch the line before finishing.

The chase after the pig was amusing, but the little porker fell rather an easy prey to Graham, a half-caste. The pig was thrown into the middle of the lake, and appeared to make straight for the swimmers instead of giving them a wide berth.

The visitors to the grounds felt the lack of a band to enliven the proceedings, and we hope next year the Committee will be able to remedy this. Mr. R. Bayley acted as judge, and Captain Cornwall and Dr. Gibben as starters. Appended are the results:—

80 Yards Race.—1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd prize 10s. Kevell, 1; Graham, 2; Ogilvie, 3rd. Two others competed.

50 Yards Race (for boys under 13).—1st prize, 10s. T. Raymond, 1; R. Williams, 2; M. Cornwall, 3. T. Bishop and W. Rowan also competed.

300 Yards Race.—1st prize, £1 10s. R. C. Hughes, 1; T. Barclay, 2.

100 Yards Boys' Race (under 17).—1st prize, £1. T. Graham, 1; Wakefield (native), 2; M. Cornwall, 3. Arthur Morrison, T. Harvey, D. Lynch, and J. O'Donnell also started.

Long Dive.—R. C. Hughes (40 yards), 1; —, Colfax (37 yards), 2; T. Barclay (30 yards), 3.

Grand Half-mile Handicap.—1st prize, £5; 2nd prize, £3; 3rd prize, £1. W. Gibben, a young man with one arm, (10 sec.), 1; Graham (30 sec.), 2; J. Broad (scratch), 3. Ogilvie, Bell, Troughton, Marrett, Cook, and Rogers also started.

50 Yards Back Race.—1st prize, £1. J. Kevell, 1; Barton, 2; Ogilvie, 3. Three others competed.

TH, MARCH 6, 1883
BALANCE SHEET 1882

THE RECREATION GROUNDS BOARD.

The following balance-sheet is published in accordance with "The Toronto Botanical Garden Act, 1874."

G. S. COOPER,
Under-Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, February 29, 1883.

Balance Sheet of the Toronto Recreation Grounds Board for the year ending December 31st, 1882.—

	£	s.	d.
Jan. 1 To cash balance	3	18	0
Feb. 28 Rent (Homer)	3	0	0
April 11 Dr. Gibben (proceeds of Fancy Fair)	65	7	11
May 15 Rent (Lockhart)	3	18	0
June 28 Rent (Homer)	3	18	0
Aug. 1 J. Greville, Esq. (donation)	7	0	0
Borough Council (grant)	10	0	0
Aug. 18 Lockhart (rent)	7	12	0
Sept. 12 Dr. Gibben (rent)	6	0	0
Sept. 27 Mr. Hunter (rent)	2	10	0
Oct. 11 Borough Council (grant)	20	0	0
Oct. 17 Mrs. Thompson (proceeds of Toronto Ball)	23	0	0
Oct. 23 Lockhart (rent)	1	0	0
Oct. 26 Thompson (deposit on contract)	3	10	0
Nov. 1 Cornwall (rent)	1	0	0
Nov. 1 Proctor's (Furniture Concert)	18	0	0
Dec. 31 Do. Do.	4	10	0
	£	133	11

	£	s.	d.
Jan. 1 By Bank Overdraft	45	2	1
Jan. 21 Interest Victoria Office	1	0	0
Jan. 28 Claffey (wages in Dec. 31 1881)	10	2	0
Mar. 31 Back interest on overdraft	1	7	0
April 1 J. T. Davis, Gen. Book, Ac.	0	13	0
Claffey on account, wages	16	14	0
April 27 Claffey, for new gate, &c.	2	10	0
May 6 J. Gilmore	1	0	0
June 29 Loans for cartage	0	0	0
July 12 W. King on (gate flag)	2	0	0
Aug. 28 Claffey, on account wages	4	7	0
Sept. 26 Richards, express work	0	4	0
Back interest on overdraft	0	14	0
Oct. 17 Claffey, on account wages	14	12	7
McIntyre	0	0	0
J. T. Davis	1	0	0
J. T. Davis	0	0	0
Oct. 11 Claffey, on account wages	0	0	0
Oct. 27 J. C. George	0	16	0
Ferris, advertising	0	11	0
Jones, advertising	0	10	0
Kirby	0	12	0
Oct. 31 Webster's estate, Under	0	15	0
Nov. 4 W. Dunlop	1	10	0
Hanna, advertising	0	10	0
Sosa, advertising	0	1	0
J. T. Davis	0	0	0
Hughes	0	10	0
Bank, half proceeds of concert	0	0	0
Expense	0	4	0
T. K. Skinner	0	11	0
Nov. 1 Claffey, wages in Nov. 4	0	10	0
Nov. 12 Thompson, amount of contract and deposit	21	0	0
Dec. 1 Claffey, wages to date	4	10	0
Approved Stamp	0	1	0
Dec. 20 Hanna, advertising	0	0	0
Claffey stands	0	0	0
Clifton book	0	2	1
Harvey, paper, &c.	0	2	0
Dec. 31 Bank balance	10	13	0
Cash balance	7	18	0
	£	133	11

JAMES DAVIDSON,
Chairman Botanical and Recreation Board.
487 ml

A few months ago, about 300 Prussian carp were placed in the lake in the Recreation Grounds, and we are sorry to state that they have all been lost, owing to the water being drained out of the lake. Why the order was given to empty the lake is difficult to understand, unless the Board were afraid of the disastrous storm predicted by Mr. Wiggins affecting the small sheet of water, and causing it to carry away the dam. It seems ridiculous to stock the lake with fish, and in a few months afterwards to deliberately allow all the water to flow out, and the fish to be lost. Such procedure is not calculated to encourage the public to contribute in the future.

TH, MARCH 21, 1883
LAKE DAM BEING REPAIRED

The water in the lake at the Botanical Gardens has been run off by order of the Recreation Grounds Board, owing to it being reported to the members that the dam was not safe. The dam has been examined, and the repairs to it commenced yesterday. We hear that the Prussian carp are not all dead, as a few have been seen in the water.

TH, APRIL 6, 1883
PLANT DONATIONS

The Botanical Gardens Board have received from Mr. P. C. Martin a donation of seeds of the persimmon, a fruit resembling the medlar. The juice makes a very delicious beer, and is used largely in the Southern States of America. The tree grows very rapidly, and produces fruit in three or four years.

TH, APRIL 24, 1883
FIRST MENTION—POET'S BRIDGE

We have been informed that the lucky winner who drew The Poet in the Auckland Autumn Handicap Sweepstake resides in New Plymouth, and has determined, in consequence of his good fortune, to erect a suspension bridge across the lake in the Recreation Grounds, to be called, we believe, "The Poet's Corner."

The Secretary of the Botanical Gardens Board has received two packets of seeds from the Government—one packet containing seeds of the acalypha, or blue gum, and the other that of the golden wattle. The latter is being introduced by the Government for the purpose of producing bark for tanning purposes, and the Secretary of the Board will supply any of its settlers who may be desirous of growing the trees with a quantity of the seed.

TH, JUNE 12, 1883

BLUE GUM SEED.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—As directed in your columns of the 29th April last, I wrote to the Secretary of the New Plymouth Botanical Gardens Board for wattle and gum seeds, and waited expecting a reply through some channel until the 30th May, when I had made up my mind to write through your columns for an explanation, but I saw the same date that a correspondent had already asked you, and you said "perhaps the Secretary can inform us for our correspondent's satisfaction." Now, Mr. Editor, I have waited and got my Budget on Monday, but I fail to find any information from the noble Secretary. And now, sir, I would ask you to be kind enough to add a foot-note, giving us the name of the Secretary, also, if his office is honorary, and if he is the author of the paragraph in question, as I certainly object to be made a fool of in that manner.—I am, &c.,

HARRIS FORD.

[Mr. Harris Ford is the Secretary, and the office is purely honorary.—Ed. T.H.]

TH, JUNE 13, 1883

SUPPLY OF BLUE GUM AND OTHER SEED.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Permit me, in reply to the enquiry of your correspondent "Blue Gum," to inform him that I am the Secretary and am the author of the paragraph in the Budget of the 29th April last, in response to which I have supplied 47 different applicants with seeds. There is still a small quantity left for distribution to anyone who will call for the same, but I cannot undertake to forward seeds by post. I have no doubt anyone travelling by Hall's coach would oblige "Blue Gum" by calling for some seeds, if requested.—I am, &c.,

HARRIS FORD,

Secretary Botanical Gardens Board.
June 13, 1883.

BOTANICAL GARDENS BOARD.
A meeting of the Botanical Gardens Board was held on Friday last. Present: Mr. Hughes (in the chair), Messrs. Skinner, Ford, and Davis.

Leave of Absence.—Leave of absence was granted to Dr. Gibbes during his absence from the Colony.

Iron Bridge.—Mr. J. T. Davis offered to erect an iron bridge across the upper end of the lake, from any design approved of by the Board.—Accepted; as a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Davis for his generous offer.—Some discussion followed as to the best means of obtaining designs. The majority of the members thought that as the bridge was for the benefit of the public generally, no doubt a number of gentlemen would willingly send in designs gratis in order to save the Board expense. It was resolved, "That designs for the bridge will be thankfully received from any gentleman inclined to assist the Board, and the Secretary be instructed to invite designs by advertisement in the Herald."

Leak.—Mr. Skinner reported that the repairs to the dam had been effected as far as the funds would allow.—The Board decided that the water should be again turned on to the lake.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, JUNE 20, 1883

DESIGN FOR BRIDGE.

MR. J. T. DAVIS having kindly offered to erect a Foot Bridge over upper portion of the Lake in Recreation Grounds, any DESIGN would be thankfully accepted by the Board up to 10th July. Particulars may be obtained from Mr. T. E. Skinner.

HARRIS FORD,

Secretary.

June 18, 1883

ed 33

TH, JUNE 25, 1883
CLARIFYING BRIDGE MATERIALS

For the information of those persons intending to send in designs for the new bridge at the Recreation Grounds we may state that the design may be for either an iron bridge or an ornamental wooden bridge, providing the cost of construction does not exceed a given sum. The centre span of the bridge will be 60 feet long, and the height from the level of the water from 8 to 10 feet.

TH, JULY 14, 1883

BRIDGE DESIGNS RECEIVED

The Botanical Gardens Board have received six designs for the proposed ornamental bridge across the lake in the Recreation Grounds. A special meeting of the Board will be called next week to decide upon the most suitable design, when tenders will be held for and the construction of the bridge commenced without delay.

TH, JULY 19, 1883

BOTANICAL GARDENS BOARD.

A meeting of the Botanical Gardens Board was held on Friday, 13th July. Present: Captain Davidson (in the chair), Messrs. Davis, Hughes, Roy, and Ford.

Boating. —A letter was read from Mr. J. Earp, Secretary of the Rob Roy Boating Club, asking permission to use the lake for boating purposes.—It was resolved, "That the application be granted, and a fee of 5s. per annum be charged for each canoe; and in order to prevent accidents, no one is to be allowed to use the canoes unless they are swimmers."

Nursery. —It was resolved that the trees in the nursery fit for planting out be done as soon as possible.

Sunday Concert. - An application was received from Mr. Wildman to allow the band to play in the Grounds on Sunday last, but the Board declined to grant the application as it was proposed to charge for entrance.

Designs for Footbridge. — At an adjourned meeting of the Board held on Monday last, the designs for the footbridge were considered and the design sent by Mr. Barclay was ultimately chosen. It was resolved, "That a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to Messrs. Barclay, Rhind, Ritso, Holford, Sands, Sanderson, Brown and Fitzhern for their kindness in forwarding designs for the footbridge; and that the designs be placed in the reading rooms of the Institute for inspection.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, JULY 21, 1883

TENDERS

FOR THE ERECTION OF FOOT BRIDGE in Recreation Grounds will be received up to FRIDAY, the 3rd August. Plans and specifications may be seen and all particulars obtained at the office of Mr. T. K. Edinger.

HARRIS FORD,

Secretary.

New Plymouth, July 21, 1883. 1883 JTB

TH, JULY 23, 1883

Mr. Barclay has completed the working plans of the proposed ornamental bridge at the Recreation Grounds, and he has made several improvements on the original design. He has devoted a considerable amount of time to this work, and he is certainly deserving of the thanks of the community. Mr. J. T. Davis, who has voluntarily come forward to defray the cost of the erection of the bridge will long be remembered for the act of generosity by which the public will be benefited.

TH, AUGUST 7, 1883

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR CHOSEN

Messrs. Hooker and Campbell are the successful tenders for Mr. Davis' bridge across the ornamental water in the Recreation Ground, the price being £155.

TH, SEPTEMBER 3, 1883

FUNDRAISING

ALEXANDRA HALL.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1883.

Under the patronage of the Queen and Ladies of New Plymouth.

THE SUNFLOWER MINSTRELS AND DRAMATIC COMPANY

will give their entertainment at the above Hall, in aid of the funds for the improvement of the Recreation Grounds, on the above date, consisting of

REGED SONGS AND MELODIES, ASTOUNDING JOCKS, LOCAL SQUID, and a variety of other

AMERICAN NOVELTIES,

entirely new, and selected from the best writers. The evening's entertainment will conclude with the laughable, rich-anointed, and side-splitting Farquhar Interlude, by Mr. Charles Sully, Author and Composer, entitled

A FEARFUL TRAGEDY IN SEVEN ACTS,

for the first time in New Plymouth.

Prices of admission—Dress Circle, 2s.; Parquet, 1s.; Gallery, 1s. Doors open at 7.30, tickets raised at 8 sharp. Carriages may be ordered for 10.30.

TH, SEPTEMBER 22, 1883

MINSTREL SHOW PROCEEDS

The Secretary of the Botanical Gardens Board desires to acknowledge the receipt of £5 12s. as the proceeds of the entertainment given by the Sunflower Minstrels in aid of the Board's funds.

TH, OCTOBER 29, 1883

THE OPEN AIR CONCERT.

On Sunday afternoon, the Volunteer Band, assisted by several members of the A.C. Band, gave a second concert in the Recreation Grounds, and it attracted an assemblage of about 1,500 people, who were seated under the shade of the trees in groups, the whole scene being most picturesque. The band performed each selection in a very pleasing manner, and the public were highly pleased with the performance. We hope during the summer months that arrangements will be made for giving periodical concerts of this description, as they are suited to the popular taste. The following were the selections given:— Selections from "The Maid" (Mozart), selections from "Mosses" (Handel), Gypsy Airs from St. Paul Water (Bassini), selection from Vital Sports (Harwood), march, Sacred Melodies (Mills), selection, Meditation (Handel), march, Chorus, Christian Soldiers (Hart). By special request the selection from Mozart's 12th.

TH, NOVEMBER 24, 1883

RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Botanical Gardens Board was held on Thursday evening last, when an application was received for permission to hold open air religious services in the Recreation Grounds on Sunday afternoons. After some discussion, it was resolved, "That until further notice permission be granted, provided the services be held on the lawn, and every precaution taken to prevent injury to the grounds." The Secretary intimated the receipt of £6 10s. as a donation from the Governor's Receptance Committee. Several members spoke rather warmly with respect to the delay in the erection of the new footbridge in the grounds; and also complaints were made of the water having been run off from the lake so long before work at the bridge had been commenced.

TH, NOVEMBER 26, 1883

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We learn that Mr. Hooker, the contractor for the new bridge at the Recreation Grounds, has commenced the work, and is pushing the erection of the structure with all speed. He has five men engaged at the work, and as the woodwork is well advanced Mr. Hooker will probably have the bridge completed by Christmas Day, according to the terms of his contract.

1884

The opening of “The Poet’s Bridge” was carried out on the evening of March 10th with a lot of pomp and ceremony. The Mayoress Mrs Bayly did the official honours. James Davis made a speech during which he referred to the petition presented to the Provisional Council in June of 1875 asking for land for recreation purposes. This petition may well have been initiated by Davis and names from it used by Clinton Hughes to find the original members of the Board.

The bridge was designed by Henry Vere Barclay who also supervised the construction. Barclay who was a surveyor for the Royal Marines spent many years exploring Central Australia and the Northern Territories. It is unclear how he came to be in New Plymouth during the early 1880s. Totara was the main timber used in the construction of the bridge and the original colour was brown. Rebuilt in 1938 using part of the bequest of Charles Score Sanders the bridge maintained a similar appearance. The bridge with the mountain in the background is one of the iconic views of New Zealand.

A cannon was presented to the Recreation Ground by Professor Furlong. This was said to be one of Dickie Barrett’s used to defend Otaka Pa at Moturoa in 1832. Over the coming years another three cannons would be gifted to the Recreation Ground, one of which was thought to be another of Dickie Barrett’s, one from the wreck of the Harriet and the third of unknown origin. The Barrett cannons were thought to date back to the 17th century. Initially these were positioned on the path at the north end of the lake but would eventually be mounted on Cannon Hill (hence the name).

Another gift to the Recreation Ground in 1884 was a pair of ornamental iron gates for the Liardet Street entrance. George Rhind was the benefactor. Rhind had come to New Plymouth in 1881 to help with the unloading and erection of machinery for the new harbour. He was kept on and made Superintendent of Works. Rhind worked for the Harbour Board for about 10 years, then briefly as the proprietor of the Taranaki Hotel. The gates were made by James Revell blacksmith, and survive to this day (2021) at the Victoria Road entrance.

The Board sold off two cottages that were deemed uninhabitable, these cottages were probably on sections 1172 and 1175 which the Board acquired in 1876.

There were plant donations of native shrubs from Mr G. Oliver, puriris from Mr R. Wells, and hollies Mr J. T. Davis. It is interesting that in some places in the park today holly trees appear to have been used as living boundary markers.

Summary of significant events

- The Poet’s Bridge opened.
- Professor Furlong donates one of Dicky Barrett’s cannons to Recreation Grounds.
- Promise of double iron gates for Liardet Street entrance.
- Dam repaired in the Hughes Pond.
- Two unoccupied cottages in the Recreation Grounds removed. Possibly on sections 1172 and 1175.
- Mr J. Revell (Blacksmith) completed making the Rhind gates for the Liardet Street entrance.



The Poet's Bridge 1884-1885 (Puke Ariki PHO2007-026)

A Furlong's statue Grace can be seen at the right of the photo, gone by March 1885.



The original location of the Dicky Barrett Cannons, a second cannon can be seen in front of the band Rotunda. These were moved on top of Cannon Hill in the mid 1890's. This photo was taken late 1891 to early 1892 (Puke Ariki A.4.101).

A combination Amateur Dramatic Company has been formed for the purpose of giving an entertainment in aid of the funds of the Recreation Ground, New Plymouth. Several local ladies have kindly come forward, and will give very valuable assistance in carrying out the object of the Club. For the last two months the Company has been actively rehearsing the deservedly popular nautical drama of *His Debt*, founded upon the well-known song so intimately associated with our school days, and always pleasingly welcome to the theatre-going public. The heroine of the piece (a local lady) is spoken of as being in every way well chosen for the role of character she sustains, the other parts being equally well appointed. The scenic appliances, music, costumes, and pretty grouping, will be a novelty in amateur performances never before attempted in New Plymouth, the stage being at times occupied by no less than fourteen male and six female characters. The Company also produce a new and fashionable comic drama, in which another local lady, as leader of the piece, will contribute greatly to the enjoyable wind up of the evening's entertainment.

ALEXANDRA HALL,
New Plymouth.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1884.

The Combination Amateur
Dramatic Company

Will give their first performance in aid of the funds of the Recreation Ground, which will be produced the deservedly popular Nautical Drama of

BEN BOLT,

casted by 10 male and female performers with New Costumes Music and Scenic Appliances.

To conclude with Madame Walker's fashionable Comedietta,

BETSY BAKER;

Or,

TOO ATTENTIVE BY HALF.

The Management calls the attention of the play-going public to the excellence of this entertainment being the first ever offered where more but purely local male and female amateurs have been engaged.

Every precaution has been taken to ensure comfort and good order during the evening.

Prices—2s, 1s, and 6d.

Box Office—Whitson's Alexandra Mould Dept. Tickets may be had of Mr. Fisher, Jeweller, Devon-street.

J. BROWN,

189 Libs

Manager.

A dramatic entertainment in aid of the funds of the Recreation Ground will be given in the Alexandra Hall on Wednesday next, by an Amateur Dramatic Company, which has been organized by Mr. J. Brown. The Company includes over twenty performers—six will be young ladies who have consented to take part. The drama of "His Debt" will be the first piece, and for it scenery is being specially prepared. There will be a ballet inter-dared, in which several young ladies will take part. A programme will be circulated in our Saturday's paper.

TH, FEBRUARY 9, 1884
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held last evening. Present: Messrs. Roy (in the chair), Davis, Skinner, Ford, Hughes, and Dr. Gibson.

Sanitary.—A complaint having been made about the pond on the section opposite Mr. Hunter's late residence adjacent the Recreation Ground, the Secretary reported that steps had been taken to fill it, and do away with the nuisance complained of.

Lease of sections.—Mr. White applied to rent sections 1866 and 1867 from the Board at a rental of £1 per annum, on condition that no right of way be allowed through them. The application was adjourned until next meeting.

Donations.—The Secretary informed the meeting that Mr. G. Newman had given a donation of £2 14s, and Mr. Cook 18s, towards defraying the expense incurred in the formation of paths in the Recreation Grounds. Also that Messrs. Percy and Newman had presented a case speci for the benefit of visitors to the grounds. The Board recorded a vote of thanks to the donors for their liberality.

Balance Sheet.—The annual balance-sheet, showing a credit balance of £21, was read and adopted.

Opening of new bridge.—It was decided that on the opening of the new bridge to the public—which will take place shortly—to hold aquatic sports; and efforts will be made to have an attractive programme as possible.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, FEBRUARY 20, 1884
CALL FOR BRIDGE OPENING DAY

As the bridge in the Recreation Ground (the donation of Mr. J. T. Davis), is nearly completed, it has been suggested to the Chairman of the Board that it should be formally opened to the public, and that on that occasion some demonstration should take place. A meeting of the Board has, therefore, been called for Thursday evening, when the matter will be fully discussed.

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Thursday evening. Present: Messrs. Davidson (chairman), Ford, Davis, Roy, R. G. Hughes, and T. K. Skinner.

Lease.—The applications of Messrs. White and Poches for lease of sections 1866 and 1867 are considered.—The Board decided to accept the application of Mr. Poches, and a lease for three years was granted at a rental of 10s. per annum.

THE NEW BRIDGE.

A letter was received from Mr. Barclay recommending that the new bridge should be tested before it is opened to the public.—This was agreed to be done.

The Board then considered the necessity to be adopted for opening the new bridge. It was decided to open the bridge in about 14 days with a moonlight promenade concert, and to ask the volunteers to take part in the proceedings.

TH, FEBRUARY 28, 1884
BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

The bridge over the lake in the Recreation Grounds, which has been in course of construction for months past, has been completed, with the exception of the hand-rail to the approaches, and other minor matters. It has the appearance of durability, and its architectural design is faultless. It consists of a wooden arch, possessing a span of 70 feet, and is supported at each end on a solid concrete foundation. The height of the floor of the bridge from the level of the water is 3ft. 6in., and the width of the floor is 5 feet, which is planked with totara and is supported by seven wooden horizontal timbers, fixed to the arch by iron rods. The hand-rails of the bridge are 3ft. 6in. high, and are of an open pattern, carrying a suitable coping. At each end there are two substantial pillars with curved solid circular ornaments, and the hand-rails terminate with curved ornaments in a neat small design. The woodwork of the bridge consists of totara, and it has been painted in a durable brown colour. Altogether it is such a structure that Mr. J. T. Davis, its generous donor, may well be proud of, and will for years to come be the centre of attraction in the Recreation Grounds. It gives a completeness to the ornamental water, and adorns the grounds in a very marked manner. Mr. Harley, C.E., executed the design, and he is entitled to praise for the amount of time and professional skill he bestowed upon a grave is supervising its construction. The paths on either side of the lake leading to the bridge have been lately widened and re-fenced, and in the improvements of the grounds generally we notice that a considerable expenditure has been incurred. Mr. Becker was the contractor for the bridge and, he was delayed in procuring the necessary timber and by unfavourable weather. Mr. Campbell was the sub-contractor for the woodwork which he has carried out in a faithful manner, the workmanship being first-class. The Recrea-

tion Grounds Board have decided to formally open the bridge to the public, when the ceremony of handing it over by the donor to the Board will take place, and it will then be declared opened by the Mayoress. We hope that successful sports will be got up for the occasion, and that the public will show their appreciation of the gift which has been made for their benefit by Mr. Davis by being present in large numbers and taking part in the ceremony.

TH, FEBRUARY 29, 1884 BRIDGE OPENING DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING OF THE BRIDGE IN RECREATION GROUND,

THE OPENING CEREMONY in connection with the Bridge across the Ornamental Water in the Recreation Ground, the donation of J. F. DAVIS, Esq., will take place on MONDAY EVENING, 19th MARCH (weather permitting.)

The Mayoress will formally declare the Bridge open to the public at 6.30 p.m., after which there will be AN OPEN AIR CONCERT and other Amusements.

ADMISSION ON THIS OCCASION—Adults 7s, Children 6s, 18s and 10s

TH, MARCH 4, 1884 STATE OF SWAMP

Swamp in Recreation Ground.—A letter was read from the Under-Secretary stating that the Health Officer, Dr. O'Carroll, had reported the unhealthy state of the Botanical Garden's swamp, and had pointed out the danger of disease arising from it. The Mayor was asked to furnish the Under-Secretary with an explanation of the failure of the local Board to abate the nuisance referred to by the Health Officer.—It was stated by Mr. Davidson, that the Botanical Gardens Board were doing all they could to rectify any evil that might arise from the swamp.

TH, MARCH 6, 1884 BRIDGE OPENING ARRANGEMENTS

The Recreation Grounds Board have decided to open the new bridge on Monday evening next, by a promenade concert and a sham fight by the Volunteers. A very good programme has been prepared, and will be very attractive. The grounds will be opened at 5.30 p.m., when an entrance fee of 1s. for adults and 6d. for children will be made. At 6.45 p.m. the members of the Board will meet the Mayoress at the Carrington Road Gate, and escort her to the bridge where the volunteers will be drawn up as a guard of honour. Mr. J. T. Davis will then formally hand over the bridge to the chairman of the Recreation Grounds, and the chairman will request the Mayoress to declare the bridge opened. After this ceremony is performed there will be a procession formed which will march near the bridge and round to the bathing-beams, where they will break off. The promenade concert by the Volunteer Band will then be given, and it is expected that there will be singing parties in boats on the lake. The Volunteers will have a sham fight on the hills during the evening. It is intended to have an exhibition and suspension of model yachts on the lake in the afternoon at four o'clock, when the admission to the grounds will be free. The cutting at the Lardet-street

entrance will be completed before Monday. Captain Davidson has been made coadjutor of the ceremony. As the proceeds will be in aid of the Recreation Grounds Board, it is to be hoped that the public will patronise the concert, and willingly pay the small charge for entrance.

TH, MARCH 11, 1884 BRIDGE OPENING CEREMONY

OPENING THE NEW BRIDGE IN THE RECREATION GROUND. MOONLIGHT CONCERT.

THE ceremony of opening the new bridge to the Recreation Grounds (the gift of Mr. J. T. Davis), took place last evening, in the presence of a large assemblage. The Recreation Ground Board had made very complete arrangements so as to make the evening pass pleasantly, and they certainly attained the object. A bandstand had been erected on the bank opposite the bathing-beams, and lighting was hanging in the beams from the standstill. The bathing-beams were illuminated with Chinese lanterns, and there were also lanterns from the bridge. At 7 o'clock, His Worship the Mayor and Mayoress were met at the Carrington Road gate, leading to the grounds, by the Members of the Recreation Grounds Board, and were escorted to the bridge. At the lake, a guard of honour was stationed to receive the Mayoress, and, on arrival at the new bridge, the members of the Board, His Worship the Mayor, and Mrs. Pugh took up their positions at the approach, where the bridge was formally handed over. A large crowd had gathered at the spot to witness the proceedings.

Mr. J. T. Davis, in handing over the bridge, gave an interesting account of the history of the Recreation Grounds. He said that when he came to New Plymouth he saw that the great want of the town was a public pleasure garden, and he at once commenced to agitate the question. A memorial was drawn up and presented to the Provincial Council, and after a considerable delay the ground was presented to the public as a Recreation Ground. At the suggestion of Mr. Kelly, who was then Provincial Secretary, a number of names were sent in to the Government for the purpose of appointing a Board to manage the affairs of the ground. The gentlemen whose names were sent in were appointed the first Board, and these gentlemen met and considered what was best to be done. They visited the spot one afternoon, and it was with the greatest difficulty that they managed to assemble over the ground, which was at that time covered with ferns, and they could scarcely cross the gullies. When they had considered round the place they came back to town, and he for one thought they had done a good day's work. In the

evening they met to the Council they considered that if they got the ground they would carry out plans for improving it, and a few days after it was granted they went out collecting subscriptions. They got a few pounds, and then the Provincial Government also helped them. About the first thing they had to do was to purchase the lease of the hill opposite to him there [where the majority of the audience were gathered], as that was not included in the original grant. There was also another piece of ground on the other side which the Board wanted to purchase when they could get it cheap, as it was necessary to have it to make the grounds complete. For fear that the Crown would ask more money for it, they completed the purchase. They afterwards decided upon having a grand opening day, and Miss Carrington probably planted a tree in the grounds on the occasion of its being opened. Some months afterwards they commenced planting the ground with ornamental trees, poplars, plane trees, etc., which they planted round the boundary. It was a great struggle at first to get the public to come to see the grounds. He was up there every Sunday for he was a single man, but he was sorry to say he gradually had the grounds all to himself. The Board determined to have a fair or good in the grounds, and for that purpose they raised £200. Mr. E. Bayly got to work drawing out a plan making use of the gullies like a pond, he was instructed not to exceed £200 for fear the Board would go bankrupt. However, instead of the £200 only costing £500 the scheme was improved as the work progressed until it at last cost £100. The Board was accord-

ingly well pleased with the work when it was completed, but they did not know how to get out of their financial difficulties. They had borrowed money to pay for the water scheme, but the question was how were they to pay it back? Another difficulty occurred which plagued them more deeply still. The bank of the lake was not so secure at first as it might have been, and it commenced to leak. Well, before that leak was stopped it cost £40. However, they by degrees got over their difficulties. Mr. (Mr. D.) was visiting the ground one day, sitting on the hill and looking down on the lake. The idea occurred to him that the ornamental water would not be complete until there was a bridge made to open it over the centre. He considered the bridge was one of the requirements of the place, and having got that idea firmly fixed in his mind, he decided not to leave a stone unturned until it was accomplished. He was not in a position at that time to erect the bridge, but by dint of a good deal of scheming he managed to catch himself in the snare that would justify him in incurring the outlay. Mr. Davis drew out a plan of a bridge which was only to cost £100, but whether he met the Board thought it would do anything would see that to make anything out of it he would have to increase the sum. He thought if he gave £150 it could be made a more suitable structure; and he also thought—and so did the Board—that if he was to sell for competitive designs for a bridge it would give the young men in the place a chance of showing their talent [laughter]. Then they decided to do, and a number of designs were received, but he thought there was no doubt that Mr. Shesley's design was the best, and that design the Board adopted. The tenders for the construction of the bridge were far in excess of the estimate, and could not be accepted, but he ultimately came to an arrangement with Mr. Hooker to construct it. Mr. Hooker was also assisted by Mr. Campbell, carpenter, Mr. Hollings, painter, and Mr. Hayes, blacksmith, and he thought the public would freely admit they had done their work well. (Great laugh.) It had given him satisfaction, and he hoped it would give the public satisfaction. There was one thing he would like to say, and that was he became a Member of the Borough Council purposely to aid in putting a grant to the Recreation Grounds; and he was not ashamed to say it. (Cheers.) He thought that when they had got the Mayor there that night, and also some of the Borough Councillors, they would rejoice in these gentlemen that it was very desirable the Council should continue to support the grounds. The grounds belonged to the public, everyone of them had a right to it, even the youngest child present had the vested right in the grounds. (Applause.)

It was a good thing to come there, and even if they had not another inch of land, he is able to say, "This land is ours." (Laughter and cheers.) He would advise there in future borough elections not to be led away with the cry of the maintenance money, but to put the question straight to the candidates, "Are you in favour of a grant to the Recreation Grounds?" and if they did not answer that question satisfactorily they should not vote for them. (Cheers.) In conclusion, all he had to say was that it gave the great pleasure to hand over the bridge to the Chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, and he hoped the Mayor and the Mayoress, and the whole company present, would likewise enjoy it. (Local applause.)

Captain Davidson, the Chairman of the Board, said he had great pleasure in mentioning Mr. Davis the donor of the Board and the people of the town for the magnificent present he had made. Mr. (Capt. D.) had been told by persons visiting New Plymouth that the Recreation Grounds were the best pleasure grounds in the colony for beauty and picturesque scenery. That was a great thing to say; but now that the bridge was completed it made the grounds more attractive than ever. There had been a great deal done by the ladies of Tararaki in aid of the funds of the Board, by holding fancy sales, bazaars, &c., and the Volunteer Band had also given concerts, half the proceeds of which went to the improvements of the grounds; and as Chairman of the Board he begged to particularly thank those persons who had so generously assisted in improving the grounds. The Board was indebted to Mr. T. E. Skilton for his gentlemanly professional services in laying out the grounds, giving levels, &c.; and likewise to Mr. H. V. Barclay, C.E., who designed and superintended the construction of the bridge.

He agreed with Mr. Davis that the Borough Council should assist the Board, and he also concurred in the idea of impressing that fact on all municipalities who were desirous to be situated to the Borough Council. He would certainly use his influence as long as he remained in the Council to obtain a grant for the grounds. With these few remarks he would again thank Mr. Davis for his generous gift and assure him that it afforded the people great pleasure—a fact which was fully testified by the large attendance of the public that evening.

Captain Davidson then requested the Mayor to declare the bridge formally opened.

The Mayor said: Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to declare the bridge now open to the public, and I have to express the wish that the bridge be named "The Poet's" bridge. (Applause.)

Captain Davidson, on behalf of the Board, said the name would be adopted.

The procession and then followed, headed by the Mayor and Magistrates, and the whole company walked over the bridge and proceeded to the bathing house, where

Captain Davidson proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Bayly for having assisted in the necessary, which was passed by acclamation.

Three cheers were then given for the Mayor, and an additional cheer for the Worthy the Mayor.

The Volunteer Band then gave musical selections, and the public assembled round the band to listen to the music. A frame for a music stand was erected for the band near the bathing house, and a number of lamps were suspended, which illuminated this part of the ground.

The Volunteers, during the evening, gave what was originally intended to be a sham fight, but some alterations must have occurred, for we only heard rattling being (which was certainly done to perfection), but there was no shuffling or maneuvering which goes to make up a sham fight. It would have been more effective had a detachment of the firing party been posted on the opposite side of the lake.

Fireworks and rockets were also let off, and during parties on the lake made the hills resound with vocal music.

We must not omit to mention that in the afternoon there was a competition on the lake for model yachts, when twelve medals were daily entered.

The proceeds last evening amounted to £20 17s.

TH, MARCH 11, 1884 POISON LAID FOR DOGS

NOTICE TO OWNERS OF DOGS.

PERSONS having valuable animals are requested NOT to take them into the Recreation Ground, as the Board has been compelled to LAY POISON, owing to the notices issued by dogs in the enclosure.

JAMES DAVIDSON,
Chairman Recreation Grounds Board.
430 1a

TH, MARCH 13, 1884 "THE POET'S BRIDGE" NAMED AFTER RACEHORSE

The bridge across the ornamental waters in the Recreation Ground was named "The Poet's Bridge," after the racehorse "The Poet," who won a race at Auckland in 1883. It appears that Mr. J. T. Davis drew that horse in a "racing sweep" and gave the bulk of the money he won towards the construction of the bridge, and as that account it is to be called "The Poet's Bridge."

TH, MARCH 19, 1884 ACCOUNTS FOR 1883

TARANAKI BOTANIC GARDENS ACCOUNTS.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, March 12, 1884.

THE following Balance-sheet of the Taranaki Botanic Garden, for the year ending 31st December, 1883, is published in accordance with "The Taranaki Botanic Garden Act, 1878."

G. S. COOPER,
Under-Secretary.

Receipts and Expenditure, Taranaki Botanic Garden Board, for year ending 31st December, 1883.

RECEIPTS.		£	s	d	
1883.					
Jan. 1.	To balance	...	22	10	0
Mar. 1.	Cash proceeds swimming tournament	...	14	12	0
	Todroak's rent	...	1	0	0
April 11.	Foster's Fairy Fyces	...	40	7	0
April 14.	Foster's Fairy Fyces	...	1	0	0
May 12.	Foster's of Mercury newspaper	...	10	10	0
May 14.	Todroak's rent	...	1	17	0
June 28.	D. Power, rent	...	2	0	0
July 7.	D. Power, on account of rent	...	0	10	0
Aug. 14.	J. Yeak, donation	...	0	8	0
Sept. 24.	G. W. Govek, donation	...	1	0	0
Sept. 26.	Sanflower Elizabethian collection	...	0	10	0
Sept. 28.	T. droak's rent	...	3	2	0
Oct. 23.	Carnall, rent	...	1	0	0
Nov. 7.	Reception Committee donation	...	0	10	0
Dec. 10.	Ready, rent	...	1	0	0
			44	11	0

EXPENDITURE.		£	s	d	
1883.					
Jan. 4.	By Claff, wages to December 31, 1883	...	4	10	0
	Band, half proceeds of concert, held December, 1883	...	2	1	0
Jan. 21.	Stratford & Hughes, insurance	...	1	4	0
Jan. 21.	Shelkworth Bros., hire of timber	...	0	2	0
Jan. 22.	Claff, wages	...	4	10	0
Feb. 20.	Hesselt, printing	...	4	0	0
Feb. 24.	Claff, wages	...	4	10	0
Mar. 8.	Swimming prize, Gibson	...	2	10	0
Mar. 8.	Swimming prize, Gibson and Hayward	...	1	10	0
Mar. 8.	Swimming prize, Broad	...	1	0	0
Mar. 10.	Swimming prize, Kinnell	...	2	10	0
Mar. 14.	Scout's, labour	...	2	0	0
Mar. 17.	Cooks expiring flag, Co. Yard for flag, &c.	...	0	0	0
Mar. 22.	HAMMOND advertising and printing Mercury newspaper	...	14	4	10
	Overpaid 6/6s, Fairy Fyces	...	3	10	0
	Sandy accounts, Fairy Fyces	...	0	10	0
April 1.	Shack & Door Company	...	0	2	0
April 5.	Claff, wages	...	0	10	0
April 12.	Print, printing	...	4	10	0
April 14.	Berry & Newman, timber	...	3	12	0
April 17.	Lowell, repairs staves	...	1	8	0
April 19.	Hughes, swimming prize	...	2	0	0
May 1.	Shack for flag hoops	...	1	0	0
	Foot nails and stumps	...	0	8	0
May 4.	Claff, wages	...	4	10	0
May 7.	Foster's, labour	...	0	7	0
June 5.	Claff, wages	...	4	10	0
June 20.	Claff, wages	...	4	10	0
July 1.	Express hire, &c.; agreement stamp, &c.	...	0	7	0
July 20.	Claff, wages	...	4	10	0
July 28.	Yeak & Son, lawn grass	...	1	10	0
July 28.	See, Githes, goods applied to Fyces	...	2	2	0
Aug. 18.	Express hire, &c.; Yeak, &c. &c.	...	0	12	0
Sept. 20.	Claff, wages	...	1	0	0
Oct. 3.	Express hire J. Lea	...	0	10	0

Nov. 12.	Claff, wages	...	0	0	0
Dec. 22.	J. Hallbridge, 10s.; and Handy and stumps, &c.	...	0	10	0
Dec. 22.	Claff, wages	...	0	0	0
Dec. 22.	Bank interest, Sept. 30...	...	0	0	0
	Balance in Bank, 31 Dec. 84.; in hand, 31st Dec. 84.	...	10	11	0
			44	11	0

JAMES DAVIDSON,
Chairman.

TH, APRIL 5, 1884 BATHING - SEASON TICKETS

THE BATHING SEASON.

THE Lake in the Recreation Ground having been re-filled, the BATHING SEASON will be re-opened from this date. The subscription can be paid to the Chairman, on the ground. Prices 10s. 6d.

JAMES DAVIDSON,
Chairman of Recreation Grounds Board.

TH, APRIL 12, 1884 GIFT OF FERN

We have been requested by the Chairman of the Botanical Garden Board, to tender the thanks of the Board to Mr. Courtenay Kyngdon for his present of a valuable and rare fern.

TH, MAY 8, 1884 BOROUGH COUNCIL FUNDING

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—In your report of the proceedings of the Borough Council I notice in paragraph headed Recreation Grounds that Mr. Cook moved "That £50 be placed on the estimate as a grant to the Horticultural Grounds, and that I wish that the matter should be referred to the public in order a special rate of 1d. in the £, which would produce £110."

Now I think that in a matter of such importance as this that the argument used by myself and others appeared to the Committee, should have been placed before the public; therefore if you will allow me space I will explain my reason for opposing this vote.

James Gottle, King, Hallbridge, Ready, and myself were appointed a Committee to draw up the estimates for the current year. During its trial we pledged to the burgesses to reduce our rates, if possible, we cut down our expenditure to the very lowest limit, as you can see by the estimates brought down to the Council enabling us to reduce our rates from 1s. to 11d. for general, 1s. 2d. to 1s. for special, and from 2d. to 1d. for gas, which I am sure are quite heavy enough in these depressed times; and it will require a great deal of care and attention on the part of the Council to keep our expenses within our means. You will observe we had only some £70 surplus for our expenses.

If the Council had passed the estimate as brought down, I consider they would have done all that was required of them; that is to say, to reduce the burgesses' tax necessities only. If the public require anything more give them an opportunity of saying so, and petition the Council to strike a special rate for the purpose, and I feel certain that if this course had been pursued the Council would have been enabled to strike a rate of 1d. in the £ for improving the Horticultural Grounds, which would have produced £110, whereas now £50 only was proposed on the estimate by the casting vote of the Worthy the Mayor—I am, &c.

W. HARRISON.

TH, SEPTEMBER 20, 1884
BARRETT'S CANNON

The Ngarewa cannon, or the "Dicky Barrett," as it is sometimes called, was the subject of a discussion at the Botanical Board's meeting last night. The ownership of this monument of the siege of Ngarewa, (when a herd of some three thousand Waikatoa tried to dislodge from the Ngarewa pah three or four hundred Ngatikoru, who were assisted by a handful of Europeans,) has long been a moot point. The provincial Government always looked upon the relic as pertaining to themselves, but lately it had fallen into private hands and been bought and sold without any reference at all to the powers that be. In the possession of the Recreation Ground authorities it is apparently in more appropriate hands, for a proposal has been made to insert it in the grounds where it will be visible to the public. It is an old-fashioned piece of artillery, and with its inscription with one of the most bloody and cruel episodes on record in these old New Zealand annals known by the name of warfare, it is an interesting relic of the past.

TH, SEPTEMBER 20, 1884
DONATION OF GATE PROMISED

Row Plymouth is fortunate in possessing a number of children who now and again place the burghers under a debt of gratitude by the valuable presentations they make to the town. The last instance of this is the gift of a double iron gate to be erected at the Lislet-street entrance to the Recreation grounds. The donation was announced at a meeting of the Recreation Board last night, but as the donor's request his name was not mentioned.

TH, SEPTEMBER 20, 1884
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Botanical Gardens Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs. Hughes, Davis, Skinner, and Ford. Mr. Hughes was voted to the chair.

Letter of Thanks.—An application was received from Mr. Cooper for the use of the paddock at the upper end of the grounds.

—This was acceded to, on a rental of 40s. a year, conditionally on his keeping the paddock free from fence and fern and the paddock being at all times open to the public. The Board reserves the right to plant and improve the ground.—Mr. Power applied to lease another part of the property, and it was decided that Messrs. Skinner and Davis should read the applicant on the ground about the matter.

Donation.—A vote of thanks was passed to the following gentleman:—Mr. G. Oliver, for donation of native shrubs; Mr. R. Wells, for gerania; Mr. J. T. Davis, for lilies; Mr. R. Harewood, for seeds; and the Secretary was instructed to tender the Board's thanks to Mr. Grevitt for his donation of £1. A special vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Forling for his present of the Ngarewa cannon.

Notice of Motion.—Mr. Davis gave notice of a motion for the next meeting that the Board consider the advisability of co-operating with the Horticultural Society.—Mr. Davis will also move at the next meeting that as the cottages owned by the Board are unfit for habitation, they should be sold.

Minutes.—The following minutes were passed:—Mr. Davis, the hon. and Mr. Davis, £1.

This concluded the business.

TH, SEPTEMBER 29, 1884
REC NOT SUITABLE FOR CRICKET

The Cricket Club are negotiating for the lease of Mr. Mitchinson's paddock as a cricket ground, the pitch on the Recreation Ground being unfit for use. There seems to be an opinion gaining ground amongst the members of the Cricket Club that the large expenditure on the Recreation Ground was ill-advised. The site is not by any means a good one, being bleak and apparently incapable of improvement except at a great cost.

TH, OCTOBER 9, 1884
DICKY BARRETT'S CANNON

The Recreation Board desires to acknowledge a donation of native shrubs from Mr. Gray.

The "Dicky Barrett's" cannon is to be mounted on concrete in the Recreation ground, Mr. W. Skinner having kindly offered to present a suitable stand.

TH, NOVEMBER 3, 1884
FUNDRAISING

RECREATION GROUND.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5.

OPEN AIR CONCERT BY VOLUNTEER BAND.

GRAND display of fireworks
Christening of Fire Brigade's new Mess-room.

Admission—Free.

8.15 p.m.

TH, NOVEMBER 20, 1884
CHILDRENS BATHING AREA

Better provision is to be made in the Recreation Grounds for juveniles bathing, and on Wednesday the Board commenced to excavate a bay of about an eighth of an acre in extent, near the bathing-house. This will be about four feet deep, and will be separated from deep water by a wire fence. The water will be reserved for ladies during certain hours in the forenoon. At present only swimmers can venture in the lake, and the extension will doubtless be a great boon to many. The lake made by Mr. Hughes, below the dam, will also receive attention, and the dam that was washed away last year will be replaced.

TH, DECEMBER 1, 1884
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At the meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board on Friday, a lease was granted to Mr. Power of a vacant piece of land on the east side, and it was decided to sell the unoccupied cottages by public auction next Saturday. The matter of Mr. Fookes' objection to the selling of Mr. Hughes' lake came under discussion, and as there was a doubt about the exact boundaries of the land affected, it was decided to make a survey. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Bay at their own expense have employed several men to assist the Board in completing the Lislet-street entrance, so it is decided to have the gates erected, and other alterations finished by Christmas.

TH, DECEMBER 1, 1884
REQUEST TO BUILD BOAT SHED

An application was made to the Recreation Grounds Board by the High School for permission to excavate a piece of ground for a boat shed at the upper end of the ground. The Board acceded to the request, but the site and style of the building have to be approved of by Mr. Skinner.

TH, DECEMBER 5, 1884
RHIND GATES MADE

Mr. J. Sewell, blacksmith, has just completed a handsome pair of gates which are to be fixed at the Lislet-street entrance to the Recreation Grounds.

TH, DECEMBER 5, 1884
BOARD'S COTTAGES TO BE SOLD

TO-MORROW,
WITHOUT RESERVE.
NEWTON KING

Will sell by auction at 1/2 past 11 on the above date,—

2 COTTAGES in the Recreation Grounds lately occupied by Messrs. Power and Lockett; to be removed within a month.

Sale at 1 o'clock.

1884 12 5

TH, DECEMBER 20, 1884
SWIMMING CLUB MEETING

A meeting of the Committee of the Recreation Swimming Club was held last night at the Court-house. Mr. J. W. Davis occupied the chair, and it was decided to hold the aquatic sports about the first week in February next. A good programme was drawn up, including canoe races, obstacle races, tug of war, diving and swimming. There are three races for boys under fifteen. Further particulars will shortly be advertised.

1885

Both Furlong Graces statues in the lake were destroyed early this year, one by a boat that came loose from its mooring, the other being blown over. The Board decided to replace them with a pair of large earthenware vases. The job was given to Mr White who had a brick-yard at Waiwhakaiho.

A bathing area was created for women and children by extending the lake by an eighth of an acre, to a depth of four feet, near the bathing house. This was separated from the deep water by a wire fence.

Changing the name of the Recreation Ground had often been suggested and in March of 1885 it was announced that the name would be changed to "Egmont Park" subject to confirmation. Unfortunately, the procedures to complete this proved too difficult and the idea was abandoned.

On April 7th, Captain Davidson, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees committed suicide. James Davidson joined the Recreation Ground Board at the beginning of 1880 to replace Thomas King. In 1881 he took over the chairmanship and kept that position until his death. He worked at Bayly's the butchers as a bookkeeper. On April 7, 1885 he had an altercation with Bayly and on his way home he called into Gilmour's shop where he had a revolver which they were selling on behalf. He took the revolver, went to his home (Fleetwood cottage) on Carrington Road, sat by a tree in his garden overlooking Marsland Hill and shot himself. F. P. Corkill took his seat on the Board.

The first rugby practice was allowed in the grounds this year, but the ground was poorly drained and when it rained it became unplayable. A lot more work was still necessary to get it into a satisfactory condition for playing sport.

Chew Chong donated a flagstaff which was positioned on top of Cannon Hill. This was a topmast off the wrecked ship the *Australind* which had come to grief whilst delivering cement for the development of the port in July 1882. The mast now stands in the reserve at Moturoa next to the Yacht Club.

Other notable happenings during the year were the decision to build a bandstand and the installation of the Rhind gates at the Liardet Street entrance.

There were many donations during the year. Six ornate garden bench seats from Mr Sharland in the UK. A circular seat round the flagpole on Cannon Hill was made from money donated by students from Mrs Dougherty's Egmont Ladies Academy.

Many plants were also donated, water lilies from W. L. Newman and Mitchinson, several hundred young pohutukawa from Captain Messenger, 150 puriri from Captain Wilson and a large quantity of young trees from Mr Mitchinson. Six-hundred trees were planted in the region of the Racecourse Walk. Other plantings included a box hedge around the lake.

Also noted was the abundance of fish in the lake - carp, perch, and trout. It was thought that offering fishing licences would be a good way of raising money.

Summary of significant events

- Furlong's statues in the main lake both destroyed.
- Egmont Park name adopted for Recreation Ground.
- James Davidson commits suicide. J. T. Davis takes over as Chairman of the Board.
- Rugby Club given permission to use Recreation Grounds.
- Recreation Ground name change abandoned.
- Government appoint Mr. F. P. Corkill to Board.
- Chew Chong's flagstaff - the salvaged mast from the *Australind* was erected on Cannon Hill.
- Seats erected around flagstaff.
- Decision made to erect Bandstand.
- New iron gates at the Liardet Street Entrance gifted by Mr. Rhind are completed at some time in 1885. (These are the gates now at the Victoria Road Entrance)
- Mayor James Paul donated £25 to kickstart Band Rotunda fund.

TH, JANUARY 30, 1885
SWIMMING TOURNAMENT

A meeting of the committee of the Recreation Ground Swimming Club, at which Mr. G. W. Green presided, was held on Thursday night in the Court House, when the programme for the aquatic sports to be held on the 11th February was drawn up. It comprises a variety of contests such as swimming races in walking costume and lights, diving, water-woman's scorpions, otherwise a hot race, obstacle race starting with a plunge from the bridge and scrambling over a boat, through hoops etc., swimming tug of war, and canoe race in all twelve events. Captain Holford was appointed Commodore, and Dr. Gibbes Judge. The starters are Mr. J. Paul and Mr. J. T. Davis, handicappers, Mr. R. B. Roy, and Mr. H. Gilmore. A Committee of Management was also appointed.

TH, FEBRUARY 2, 1885

NAMING THE RECREATION GROUND.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Every city in New Zealand has its park, its domain, or its pleasure grounds. New Plymouth may well be proud of its Recreation Ground, for with the exception of the public domain in Auckland there is nothing to compare with it in New Zealand for natural beauty, elegance, and its approach. The landscape from the bridge looking towards the sea is one of exceptional loveliness—it is, in fact, faultless. Nature has done much to create a variety of character in the undulations, shelter, and slopes, so as to render it a comparatively easy task for art to beautify and lay out the grounds at a moderate cost. The lagoon with its grassy slopes stands prominently in the foreground, giving a charming relief to the wooded sides and foliage which surround it. But my main object now is to call the attention of the public to the necessity of giving this delightful spot a proper name other than the Recreation Ground—rather let it be Esplanade Park; it will be appropriate, and justly merited. Mount Esplanade, the pride of the people in Taranaki, will ever look down upon us clasping with quiet and dignified approval, and the visitors to these sylvan woods will look up to its parent with silent awe and admiration; and as New Plymouth advances in wealth and prosperity, so will the people by judicious expenditure contribute to the development of this health resort, and feel that pure and healthy enjoyments, both mental and physical, will be within the reach of themselves, their children, and their descendants.—I am, &c.,

A. VINTAGE.

TH, FEBRUARY 4, 1885
SWIMMING GALA PROGRAMME

RECREATION GROUNDS SWIMMING CLUB.

PROGRAMME: His Worship the Mayor, Vice-President; Dr. O'Connell, Commodore; Captain Holford, Judge; Dr. Gibbes, Starter; J. Paul and J. T. Davis, Handicappers; R. B. Roy and H. Gilmore, Handicappers; G. W. Green, J. W. Davis, R. C. Hughes, T. E. Gilmore, Dr. Gibbes, and P. Humphreys.

TO BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, February 11, 1885
ON THE
ORNAMENTAL WATER

in the Recreation Ground.

PROGRAMME:

1. All-swimmers' for Boys under 15 years, 25 yards. First, 5s. 6d. Returns 6d.
2. All-swimmers' 100 yards. First, 5s. Returns 1s.
3. All-swimmers' for Boys under 15 years, 110 yards. First, 5s. Returns 6d.
4. D-scissors, 100 yards. 1st prize, 5s.; 2nd prize, 3s. Handicappers, 1s.; acceptances, 1s.
5. Long Dive, 1st prize, 5s. Returns, 1s.
6. Water-woman's scorpions, in tank, 50 yards. Special prize, Returns, 1s.
7. Handicap Half-mile, 500 yards. 1st prize, 5s. and silver medal; 2nd prize, 4s. Handicappers, 1s.; acceptances, 1s.
8. Tug of War, 5 men each. Prize, 5s., with various fees added. Returns, 1s each man.
9. 25 yards Steeplechase Race. Special prize. Returns, 1s.
10. Trial Race in Walking Costume (including of Trunks, Vest, Coat, and Boots). First, 5s. Returns, 1s.
11. One Mile Canoe Race. First, 5l. Returns 1s.
12. Obstacle Race, Land and Water, and over such obstacles provided by the Committee. First, 5l. Returns, 1s.

All persons entering for the above Races, with the exception of Numbers 1, 6, and 8, must be Members of the Club, otherwise they cannot compete.

NOTE—Any person can be a Member of the Club on payment of 2s. 6d. Applications for Handicaps and for the Ocean Race to be in the hands of the Secretary by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 10th February, 1885, accompanied by a deposit of 1s. for each entry. Other events post entries.

Acceptances will not be received after a post on Monday, 9th February, 1885, and must be accompanied by an acceptance fee of 1s.

Entries and Drivers must be seen by all competitors, and to be approved by the Committee.

To compete in each race an entry will be given.

The action of the Committee in any matter is to be final.

The Committee reserve the right of altering the order of the events.

ADMISSION—Adults, 1s.; Children, 6d.

ARTHUR H. HOLMES,

Secretary.

TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1885
SWIMMING GALA BUNTING

The Recreation Grounds Board have granted permission to the Aquatic Sports Committee to levy a charge for admission to the Grounds on Wednesday. The Committee were up on Friday arranging to spread a line of bunting across the water from hill to hill on the occasion of their sports.

TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1885
NEW BATHING AREA

The thoughtful provision of the Recreation Board in supplying a bathing place for ladies and children has been largely taken advantage of lately. On Friday morning there were about twenty children in the enclosed water, none of whom would have been safe in the old state of the lake. Ladies, however, have not made use of it, probably from the fact that so far can be set apart for them.

TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1885
ORNAMENTAL GATES BEING
ERECTED

The ornamental gates are now being erected at the Lifford-street entrance to the Recreation Ground.

TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1885
NEAR DROWNING

It has nearly been our end and lot to chronicle a case of drowning in the lake at the Recreation Ground. A young gentleman who could not swim got into one of the Hob Roy canoes, and when about in the centre of the lake capsized. Several people looking on thought it an amusing incident and at once commenced to laugh at the unfortunate, never for a moment dreaming that he was unable to swim. On seeing that the canoeist was in danger Mr. H. Gilmore at once plunged in and pluckily swam out to the canoe. Immediately he reached him the unfortunate young man became insensible, and had to be supported till a boat was put off from the shore. He was then conveyed to the bathing shed, but it was fully half-an-hour before consciousness was restored.

TH, FEBRUARY 10, 1885
CHEW CHONG OFFERS FLAGSTAFF

Mr. Chew Chong has offered to present a flagstaff to the Recreation Ground. On his offer being announced at the Recreation Board meeting last night, a vote of thanks was warmly accorded.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1885
PLAQUE FOR THE POET'S BRIDGE

The Recreation Board passed the following resolution at its last meeting "That in reviewing the history of the Board during the past year the members look with much satisfaction and pleasure at the permanent improvement of the grounds caused by the presentation by Mr. J. T. Davis of the handsome bridge across the lake; and this Board tender to him their hearty thanks for his very liberal donation." It was also decided to put an inscribed metal plate on one of the pillars recording the name of the donor and particulars of the gift.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1885
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Board passed the following resolution at its last meeting "That in reviewing the history of the Board during the past year the members look with much satisfaction and pleasure at the permanent improvement of the grounds caused by the presentation by Mr. J. T. Davis of the handsome bridge across the lake; and this Board tender to him their hearty thanks for his very liberal donation." It was also decided to put an inscribed metal plate on one of the pillars recording the name of the donor and particulars of the gift.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1885
GARDEN SEATS OFFERED

A visitor to New Plymouth has announced his intention of presenting the Recreation Ground with a number of garden seats. The order will be sent home as soon as the Board have decided on a name for the grounds, as it is desired to have it in lettering in the castings. The name will be fixed upon next Board meeting, notice of motion having been given that it be the "Egmont Gardens."

TH, FEBRUARY 12, 1885
SWIMMING CARNIVAL HUGE SUCCESS

There must have been fully a thousand people in the Recreation Grounds on Wednesday on the occasion of the aquatic sports. The groups of people dotted all about the green slopes and clustered in knots under the trees gave the grounds a very animated appearance, while the bright summer dresses of the ladies and the display of bathing caps a very pretty picture. The sports went off very well, and with the exception of the unfortunate accident to W. Halford while crossing the water on a tight rope, there was nothing to spoil the spectators' enjoyment, except perhaps the little shower that came on just at the conclusion of the programme. The land which was in attendance, under Mr. Gagey, showed a great improvement on their previous appearance, and pleasantly whiled away the time between the different events.

As far as the swimmers were concerned the cloudy sky was an advantage, as it kept the sun out of their eyes. The committee succeeded in getting off all the events without a hitch, and everywhere of the competitors seemed satisfied. Mr. A. H. Holmes as Secretary was always where he was wanted. The duties of Messrs. Paul and Davis as starters though not very extensive received their whole attention, and as Judge Dr. Gibson acted very efficiently. Mr. Eley had a refreshment booth in the grounds, and apparently did a large trade. The children were treated to a row on the lake by the good-natured boatmen who were present to row in attendance on the swimmers. The takings at the gate amounted to £32 1s 7d, which, after paying expenses, will leave a balance to be handed over to the ground authorities. The following are the results of the several events:—

100Yds. Boys' races 15. Open to all swimmers. Prize 7s 6d. Entrance 6d.—C. Cornwall, 1; H. Williams, 2; W. Treuby, 3; won easily. The following also started.—F. Bishop, C. Kirkby, F. Cartlow, and C. Cooper.

100Yds. Men's races 15. Prize £1. Entrance 1s.—W. H. Shuttleworth, 1; W. Halford, 2; W. A. Wood by a length; Goodwin also started.

150Yds. Boys' races 15. Prize 10s. Entrance 6d.—C. Cornwall, 1; W. Norman, 2; H. Williams, 3. Again Cornwall won easily.

300Yds. Handicap.—1st prize £1 10s, 2nd 7s. Non-swimmers 1s. acceptance 1s. W. Gibson (5 sec.), 1; W. Shuttleworth (24 sec.) 2; Cornwall (30 sec.), 3. Won easily. Holton (25 sec.), Halford

(scratch), Davis (20 sec.) also started, and finished in the order named.

1000Yds. Prize, £1. Entrance, 1s. E. Hughes, 15yds., 1; Williams, 15yds., 2. Treuby and Norman tied for third place, each doing 21 yards. Norman, the other competitor, did 18 yards.

Tom Hahn, 15yds., Special prize. Entrance, 1s.—H. Williams, 1; A. Haxton, 2. Norman could not sit his tub and finished. Williams pulled home on easy water.

HALF-MILE HANDICAP. 1st prize, £4 and silver medal; 2nd prize, £1.—W. Gibson, 10 sec., 1; Holton, 20 sec., 2; F. Humphries, 30 sec., 3. The following came in in the order named: Shuttleworth, 45 sec.; Cornwall, 60 sec.; Loveloy, scratch; Hughes, 85 sec.; Young, 95 sec. Gibson swam strongly and straight, and again touched the rope first, leading Holton by half-a-dozen yards.

Distances Race, 15yds. Special prize. Entrance, free.—W. Treuby, 1; F. G. Cartlow, 2; E. J. Cartlow, 3. Cornwall, N. Cornwall, F. Bishop, W. A. Wood, and W. Norman also started. An amusing race. Most of the swimmers started very comically.

CANOE RACE, one mile. Prize, £1. Entrance, 1s.—H. Kirkby, 1; J. W. Davis, 2; E. W. Hahn, 3. Shuttleworth also started. Won without much pushing.

The obstacle race is to be held on a future occasion.

TH, FEBRUARY 27, 1885
ACCOUNTS FOR 1884

GAZETTE NOTICE.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE TAKING NAME BOTANICAL GARDENS BOARD for the year ending December 31st, 1884.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Jan. 1—To Balance	15	15	0
„ 18—To Cash Donations Mr. G. Norman	2	14	0
„ 18—Cash Lottery—Bank	1	17	0
March 10—Cash proceeds bridge opening	30	17	2
April 17—Cash J. Claffy—Bank	1	0	0
„ 17—Cash Lottery—Bank	0	11	8
May 13—Cash Donations Mr. F. Cole & Co	1	0	0
June 20—Cash D. Power—Bank	2	0	0
„ 20—Cash F. Power—Bank	2	0	0
July 13—Cash F. Power—Bank	2	0	0
August 5—Cash Grant from Borough Council	24	0	0
„ 5—Cash F. Power—Bank	2	0	0
Sept. 8—Donation Mr. C. W. Goodwin	1	0	0
Oct. 20—C. Cornall—Bank	1	0	0
Dec. 1—Grant from Borough Council	28	0	0
	£116	18	2

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Jan. 11—By Randall & Hughes' Invoice	1	4	0
„ 18—J. Roberts—Labour	2	14	0
Feb. 5—Claffy, on account wages	8	0	0
„ 28—Claffy, on account wages	10	0	0
March 15—Zevanski firm of printing	0	8	0
„ 15—E. Cook, for Coalfire	0	8	0
„ 15—Chew Chong, Lantern and Candle	0	18	0
„ 15—Zevanski advertising	0	10	0
„ 15—H. Davies, open air	0	18	8
April 15—H. Harker for extra work in statement of bridge	4	0	0
„ 15—Claffy, on account of wages	18	10	0
„ 15—J. Claffy, labour	0	8	0
May 1—New advertising	0	10	0
July 25—Claffy, on account of wages	6	10	0
August 5—Claffy, on account of wages	12	15	0
„ 10—Gagey, express hire	0	4	0
„ 11—Holton, material glass handle	0	2	6
Sept. 10—Claffy, on account of wages	6	10	0
Oct. 6—Harker's, express hire	0	1	0
„ 15—H. W. Spring, make	0	3	8
„ 18—Claffy, on account of wages	6	10	0

„ 18—New advertising	1	4	0
„ 25—Davies, open air	0	18	0
Nov. 12—Lyn, express hire	0	1	8
„ 21—Claffy, on account of wages	4	10	0
Dec. 27—Claffy, on account of wages	0	14	0
„ 27—Chew Chong	0	2	0
„ 31—Inwards, stamps, and stationery	0	8	0
„ 31—Balance in Bank	10	18	0
„ 31—Balance in hand	5	18	2
	£116	18	2

JAMES DAVIDSON,
 Secy. 137

TH, MARCH 2, 1885
LAKE STATUE DESTROYED

The big boat that is kept on the Recreation Ground lake broke loose last Wednesday and drifted against one of the statues, the presentation of Professor Farlow. The figure was toppled over from its stand into the water. It was recovered on Sunday by some bathers, but, unfortunately, when it was being hoisted ashore it broke in half at the waist. The material of which the statues are made—plaster of Paris—does not stand the exposure well; it is showing out in black spots, and has become very brittle.

TH, MARCH 3, 1885
FLAGSTAFF ERECTION TENDER

TENDERS

FOR the ERECTION of a FLAGSTAFF in the Recreation Grounds will be received up till noon on FRIDAY NEXT, the 5th instant. Particulars may be obtained from the undersigned.

HARRIS FORD,
 Secretary,
 March 3, 1885.

TH, MARCH 7, 1885
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The name Egmont Park for the Recreation Ground was adopted at a meeting of the Board last night on the motion of Capt. Davidson, seconded by Dr. Gibson. A letter from the Swimming Club was received enclosing a donation of £2; and a decision was come to that as no tenders were received for the erection of Mr. Chew Chong's flagstaff the work would be done by the Board. The flagstaff is to be erected on the top of the hill near Mr. Farlow's reflector.

TH, MARCH 9, 1885
NAME CHANGE TO BE CONFIRMED

The change of name for the Recreation Ground has yet to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Board. "Egmont Park" is the name adopted some as a feeder to ascertain the wishes of the public in the matter, and was suggested by the gentleman who recently offered to present the garden seats to the ground. A final decision will be arrived at next meeting.

TH, MARCH 17, 1885
REMAINING STATUE DESTROYED

The remaining nymph in the Recreation Grounds was toppled over by the storm on Saturday, and in its fall broke into three pieces. No other damage was done in the grounds.

TH, APRIL 8, 1885

CAPTAIN DAVIDSON SHOTS
HIMSELF.

The town was thrown into a great state of excitement yesterday afternoon on the report gaining currency that Captain Davidson, Coroner and ex-Mayor, had shot himself dead. At first it was thought to be a cruel hoax, but the news of the deceased being close to the centre of the town, it was not long before neighbors verified the report for themselves, and then the subject was discussed with almost bated breath by knots of people everywhere in Deven-street. The scene of the tragedy is on the Carrington Road. Captain Davidson's residence stands in a retired spot on the right hand side of the road, which, being on a higher level, overlooks the grounds around the house. The grounds are also under the view of houses on Harland Hill. It is, however, nearly hidden by trees in the midst of which the house may almost be said to stand. There is a cluster of young pine trees and blue gums at the back of the house, which offer a kind of screen where a person is visible neither from the road nor the hill. It was here that the fearful act took place, and where the pool of blood and portions of brains scattered about were seen as described by the witness Howells.

It was the habit of the deceased on his return home in good weather always to take off his coat, and on this fatal occasion the habit had been followed. When found the body was without a coat or waistcoat, and the hand felt hot which the deceased had been lying on the ground with a jagged bullet hole in the crown. The wound in the head had bled very profusely, and all the front of his shirt was a mass of clotted gore, as were also his shirt sleeves and hands. The mouth was slightly open, but the aperture at the top of the head seemed to have had none, for the features were not so much distorted as might have been expected. The hair of the head was all clotted, but the hairless wound in the crown of the head could be easily seen. The bullet hole in the temple had shattered a hole about the size of a penny, and the jagged fragments of the skull at the sides were protruding upwards through the hair. After Dr. Leatham had examined the body it was removed on a door to the workshop

which is full of the tools and appliances for footwork at which the deceased spent nearly all his leisure time—and was placed on the work bench. The expression of the face was quite vacant, but it was very haggard, and showed signs of either great mental trouble or extreme pain. It seems that the deceased had left two revolvers at Mr. Gilmer's bar side. When he called there in the afternoon, he asked very coolly and composedly for one of the weapons, and on Mr. Gilmer reaching it from the shelf and handing it to him, he requested that it should be done up in paper. It may be said that the deceased, who had led a soldier's life in many parts of the world and who was in consequence

rather fond of firearms, had several other weapons in the house, so that if he had premeditated self destruction there was no necessity for making the special call at Mr. Gilmer's for the revolver. The more charitable construction is that he had received his coat and waistcoat with the intention of getting to work; the pain of his old wound coming on after the excitement of the altercation with Mr. Dayly, he, almost on the spot of the moment, picked up the weapon he had just brought home and, with the calmness and strange look noticed in him five minutes before by the domestic in the kitchen, had walked round to the back, and after a few minutes of angish, during which the witness Howells had seen him seated on the ground, sought relief in death.

TH, APRIL 8, 1885
CAPTAIN DAVIDSON'S INQUEST

An inquest was held on the body last night, before H. Weston, Esq., J.P., was acted as Coroner. The following jury was empanelled:—Alfred Drew (Barrow), Thomas K. Petty, Henry Mowbray, Harry Ford, Richard Cook, Robert Howe, James M. Virvan, Charles Brown, Ralph D. Collins, Archibald Hood, James Wells, Henry Hooperfield, Alfred Moore, Charles Ford.

After the jury had viewed the body, the following witnesses were called by the Coroner's Party, who said that he had very little evidence to bring forward, but he had no doubt that it would establish a case of suicide.

Frederick Howells deposed: I am a butcher, and work for Mr. Dayly. I knew the deceased, who was a clerk employed at the mess establishment, and resided in Carrington Road. I live next door, and I last saw him alive at about ten minutes to four on the seven pine trees about distance behind his house. I was in the mess paddock or grounds, but was not looking for him. He was sitting with his back towards Carrington Road, and his face towards Harland Hill. I was looking for a hen nest, and not finding it returned to my own house. Nothing else occurred to attract my attention till about twenty minutes past four, when I heard a report of fire arms. I thought at first it was in the direction of the goal, which was in about the same direction that I saw him sitting. I got up and looked out of the window, but not seeing anything I sat down again. The next thing that attracted my attention was Mr. Davidson's servant, a young woman named Cole, calling out "Mr. Howells" or "Mrs. Howells" or both perhaps. I went out immediately, and she told me the captain had shot himself. I jumped over the fence, and ran towards where the captain had been sitting. I saw the body just as it had been sitting down and had fallen over on his right side; that is, least so it would be when sitting. There was a quantity of blood on the top of his head, and there was a pool of blood where his head was lying. Mrs. Davidson was standing by, and had been washing him, and I saw the blood flowing from his mouth. A six-calibered revolver, similar to the one produced, was lying near his right hand. I saw a hole in the top of his head and a portion of the brain scattered about. I then went immediately to town, meeting Dr. Leatham on the way, and after consulting Sergeant Duffin about the affair, I returned to the body. I have not noticed anything peculiar about the deceased. The last time I saw him previous to what I have described was at half-past twelve to-day, when he was sitting at his desk in the office, alone.

Dr. Leatham deposed: I am a duly qualified medical practitioner. I knew the deceased. A girl born five days after noon I was asked by Mr. Dyer, senior, the deceased's father-in-law, to come up at once, as Captain Davidson had shot himself. I went immediately and found the body doctored up lying on the right side with the hands underneath. Life was extinct. The revolver was partly under the body, about three inches from the right hand. I placed the body on its back, took up and examined the revolver. I saw that it had two or three cartridges in it, and in the possession of Sergeant Duffin I removed a recently discharged cartridge and saw it exploded. On examining the body I found a wound in the palm and another wound in the vertex of the skull. The latter one I saw to be connected with the one in the palm, and was the exit of the ball. The wound was such as would have been produced by a bullet entering the palm and passing out at the other aperture. The wounds were recently inflicted. There was a good deal of blood about, and the body was quite warm. I should say death had occurred about an hour before. The wound in my opinion, would cause instantaneous death. The revolver must have been placed in the mouth when wide open, because if it had been fixed with the mouth closed it would have hit the teeth.

From the surrounding circumstances I should say the wound was self-inflicted; I have known the deceased about four years. I attended him about three years ago, when he complained of great pain in the head, and he seemed to be agitated in his mind. He said he frequently suffered from the effects of a severe wound in the skull, which had been received in action. Old head injuries are liable at remote periods to produce disorders of the brain. What is all I know of deceased.

Barbara Cole deposed: I am a domestic servant employed by the deceased. I saw him last alive at quarter past four in the kitchen, walking about looking very strange, but did not appear to be out of his mind. He did not speak. He went out of the kitchen. I did not notice that he had a revolver. That was the last I saw of him alive. I was standing in the kitchen door about five minutes afterwards and heard a firearm discharged. I thought it was a gun fired at one of the prisoners, and I took no notice of it. About ten minutes after this I went out into the paddock to take some hens off the clothes line, and I saw the body lying down under the pine trees. I saw the deceased's daughter, a child of about ten years of age, go up to her father. She called out to me, "What's the matter with daddy; his nose is bleeding." I saw the revolver lying beside him, and ran and told Mrs. Davidson at once. Mrs. Davidson then went to the body, and I followed with some water. I saw blood coming from his head, and after Mrs. Davidson and I got to the body I ran and called Mr. Howells, who came at once.

Mr. W. Dayly deposed: I am a settler residing in New Plymouth. The deceased had been employed as clerk and book-keeper at a butchery establishment of mine in Deven-street. Deceased was in my company in my office to-day from a quarter past eleven until after two. That was the last I saw of him alive. I was occupied in going over my books and accounts during that time. There is a discrepancy in the books, or I might say they are not quite correct, and we had a few words over them. I took the keys from him, but before parting I returned them to him, and told him I would keep him on. The keys are the latch-key of the door, the key of the iron safe, two of the two drawers, and

one of a cupboard. When I left I told him I would see him again as soon as I had been home and had lunch. I expected to see him when I returned to my office, but he was not there. I expected him to go on with his work as usual.

By the Coroner: He appeared to be very excited.

The foreman: Was the reinstatement to be permanent?

Mr. Bayly: I think that is hardly a fair question. I gave him up all the keys, and reinstated him in full possession and left him in the office to go on with his work as usual.

Harry Gilmore deposed: I am a son of John Gilmore who carries on business in Beaufort-street, and knew the deceased. I recollect him having a revolver at my father's shop about three month's ago for sale. He asked for it at half-past two this afternoon. He gave no reason for doing so, and I did not notice anything unusual about him. The revolver produced in the case.

Constable W. H. Ryan deposed: The deceased was my brother-in-law, and I saw him alive to-day about two o'clock. I was speaking to him and noticed that he appeared very strange. He had a strange look, and seemed quite troubled in mind, and his appearance was quite different from usual. I have known him this last nine or ten years, and he has often complained of an old ulcer wound in the head, and he said it caused him great pain. He had at these asked me to examine the place where it was. About two or three years ago he was quite out of his mind, and had to be treated for it. He said he had seen Dr. Leatham and Dr. O'Connell, but that they were unable to relieve him.

Inspector Parry deposed: I knew the deceased for the last two years and over. I saw him yesterday between 11 and 1 standing in front of Mr. Bayly's shop in Duras-street, with his hands in his pockets and his back leaning against the wall. I was so struck with his appearance that I stopped and looked at him. He looked to me to be a man with some great burden on his mind, so though verging on insanity, I never saw such a woe-begone miserable look on a man in my life. I was going to speak to him at first, but I thought I had better not, so I only nodded to him. His looks haunted me afterwards.

This concluded the evidence.

The acting Coroner, commenting on the evidence, said there was very little room to doubt that the deceased had been in a state of temporary insanity, but added that of course it was for the jury themselves to decide.

The foreman announced the verdict of the jury to be that the deceased died by his own hand while in a state of temporary insanity.

TH, APRIL 11, 1885 FIRST RUGBY PRACTICE ON GROUNDS

The local football club have obtained permission from the Recreation Grounds Board to use the lawn for football purposes.

TH, APRIL 11, 1885 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A full meeting of the Recreation Ground Board was held last night, when Mr. J. T. Davis was elected chairman, in place of the late Capt. Davidson. The resolution passed at the last meeting, changing the name of the grounds to Eglant Park, was brought up for discussion and confirmation. It appears that the Board had not power to alter the name given to the grounds by Act of Parliament, and the resolution was therefore not confirmed. A vote of thanks was passed to the swimming club for their donation of £4. It was also resolved to send a letter of condolence to the widow of the late chairman.

TH, APRIL 25, 1885 FLAGSTAFF BEING ERECTED

A new monument is being added to the Recreation Grounds in the shape of a flagstaff, part of which was presented by Mr. Chas. Clark. Men are now employed in erecting it. The idea of erecting the grounds has been championed as a special Act of Parliament would have to be passed, and they will in all probability be handed down for a generation or so to come as "The Recreation Grounds." The football club already use it as a practice ground.

TH, MAY 7, 1885 DONATION OF GARDEN SEATS

The Recreation Grounds Board have been notified by Mr. J. C. Sharhead that he has ordered six park seats as a donation to the grounds. The sitting accommodation in the garden would be complete if however also would only present a circular seat to be placed round the foot of the flagstaff which is now erected on the hill.

TH, MAY 12, 1885 F. P. CORKILL APPOINTED TO BOARD

The Government have appointed Mr. F. P. Corkill to the vacancy on the Recreation Grounds Board, caused by the death of Captain Davidson.

TH, MAY 27, 1885 LARGE PLANT DONATION

With the large donations of plants, the Recreation Grounds Board has been enabled to try on a new plantation. About six hundred young trees have been set on the hill above the strawberry bed.

TH, JUNE 8, 1885 NEW PATH PLANNED

The Recreation Grounds authorities are still improving the gardens. A pathway is to be made up the hill near the strawberry bed, and a mat placed on the top. From this point the best view in the garden can be obtained. It overlooks the meadows and all the surrounding country.

TH, JUNE 9, 1885 MORE FISH FOR LAKE

It is expected that the revenue of the Recreation Grounds Board will be considerably augmented when the fish that are already there, and those which are to be placed there soon, are ready to be angled for. Licenses to fish may figure in their returns as bringing in a not inconsiderable sum of money. At present there are Prussian carp, and a few trout in the waters, but it is not known whether the trout are increasing. It is feared that the stagnant state of the water does not suit the trout very well. Some time back the waters of the lake were cleaned, and it is thought that many of the trout were lost then. The carp are very numerous. The perch which are shortly to be placed there give excellent sport, being very voracious bait-takers.

TH, JULY 7, 1885 GOLDEN WATTLE CULTIVATED

The Recreation Grounds Board have been very successful in the cultivation of the Australian golden wattle, the bark of which is so valuable for tanning. The trees are now a couple of years old, and give every promise of being suitable to the climate.

TH, JULY 18, 1885 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held last night. Mrs. Dougherty's scholars were thanked for their donation, and their request that the money be expended in providing a seat around the base of the flagstaff is to be carried out. Votes of thanks were passed to Capt. Helford, for assisting in erecting the flagstaff, and to Messrs. Mitchinson, G. W. Howell, Wm. Lake, Alex. Laird, for donations. It was also decided to procure two terra-cotta vases to replace the destroyed ones.

TH, JULY 18, 1885 BOUNDARY SURVEY REQUESTED

The Survey department are to be asked to supply a plan of the Recreation Ground, so that trees may be planted along the boundaries. At present the boundaries are not known with sufficient exactness to enable the tree planting to be done. It is said that in some places there is a variation of thirty feet.

TH, JULY 18 1885 FISHING LICENSES

Now that fish are getting so plentiful in the Recreation Ground lake the Board are contemplating issuing angling licenses.

TH, JULY 30, 1885
VASES TO REPLACE STATUES

The work of making the large earthenware vases for the Recreation Ground has been given to Mr. White, who has the brick-yards at Walsingham. The vases are of an unusually large size, and are to take the place of the statues.

TH, AUGUST 24, 1885
PLANT DONATION

At a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board on Friday, an offer from Mr. Nicholson to donate a large quantity of evergreen trees and a parcel of valuable aquatic plants was received. Mr. Nicholson also offered to plant the latter. The offer was accepted with thanks, and £5 was voted towards planting the other trees offered by Mr. Nicholson. A vote of thanks was also passed to Captain Messenger for his presentation of several hundred young Polystichum ferns.

TH, AUGUST 25, 1885
TROUT FOUND IN LAKE

The trout found in the Recreation Ground pond on Sunday was, it seems, lost discovered by a lad named Greider. It was in the race leading to the fall, and had evidently become stranded. Trout always spawn in gravel or coarse sand, and there was being any such material in the lake the fish was probably in search of it elsewhere. The fact that it was full of ova makes this appear all the more probable.

TH, SEPTEMBER 5, 1885
GRAVEL PUT IN LAKE FOR TROUT

Several loads of gravel have been placed in the Recreation Ground lake for the benefit of the trout.

TH, SEPTEMBER 12, 1885
PLANT DONATION

Mr. Nicholson has presented the Recreation Grounds with a number of water lily plants, and he has also given his services and planted them for the Board.

TH, SEPTEMBER 21, 1885
PLANT DONATIONS

The Recreation Grounds Board desire to acknowledge the very acceptable donation of 150 parcel plants from Captain Wilson, of Urmston.

TH, SEPTEMBER 30, 1885
PLANT DONATIONS

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TH, OCTOBER 3, 1885
GARDEN SEATS DONATED

Mr. J. C. Sharland's donation of iron garden seats for the Recreation Ground may be expected to arrive very shortly, the secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board having received advices that they left London by the ship Canterbury last July.

TH, OCTOBER 5, 1885
BOX PLANTED AROUND LAKE

The Recreation Grounds authorities are further beautifying the gardens by planting a border of box around the lake.

TH, OCTOBER 21, 1885
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

It has been decided to procure an imported brass plate to put on the Foot's Bridge in the Recreation Ground, reminding the rates of the donor.

At the last meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board a communication was received from the Borough authorities, notifying that the fence must be continued from their grounds. At the same meeting also a discussion took place on a proposal of Mr. Haggart, that the lake should be lowered to enable repairs to be effected to the bank. It was ultimately decided not to lower the lake until after the dry season.

TH, OCTOBER 24, 1885
FIREWORKS DISPLAY

A master fireworks display is to take place in the Recreation Ground on the night of the 31st November. The exhibition will be under the auspices of the Recreation Grounds authorities, and a large arrangement of fireworks has been bought. A full description of the fireworks as well as other particulars will be advertorial in a subsequent issue.

TH, NOVEMBER 17, 1885
GARDEN SEATS DONATED

A special vote of thanks was passed last night by the Recreation Grounds Board to Mr. J. C. Sharland, for his handsome gift of six garden seats. Thanks were likewise accorded to Mr. H. Taylor for the erection and completion of the seats around the fountain. It was also desired that a donation of five guineas by Mr. H. Weston should be suitably acknowledged.

TH, NOVEMBER 17, 1885
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

After getting in all the accounts of the lake fireworks display in the Recreation Grounds, it has been found that the net proceeds are £15 11s 1d. The thanks of the public are due to the gentlemen who arranged and carried out the exhibition, and whose efforts resulted in so large an accession to the funds of the grounds. At the meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board last night, it was decided to erect a band stand, and the local architects are to be asked to supply gratuitously a plan capable of execution when funds permit.

TH, NOVEMBER 30, 1885
DISCUSSIONS ON SWAMP RECLAMATION

A meeting of the Football Club was held in the Bridge Club rooms on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of discussing the project of reclaiming the swamp in the Recreation Grounds. Messrs. Davis, Roy, Corhill, and Ford, of the Recreation Grounds Board, were also present. It was stated that the cost of £1000 in the swamp being reclaimed would be about £40, but to make a thorough job it was estimated that a sum not far short of £200 would be required. The Football Club appointed a committee to make formal application to the Recreation Grounds Board, and generally to make arrangements about procuring money. The fact that a good tennis lawn could also be provided is expected to attract the support of the ladies to the undertaking.

TH, DECEMBER 14, 1885
BAND ROTUNDA DISCUSSIONS

A deputation from the New Plymouth Town Band recently waited on Mr. J. E. Davis, chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, with the object of having a site fixed for the band rotunda which is to be erected in the gardens. A site was provisionally selected below Professor Furlong's glasshouse mirror, but as it would be necessary to fell one of the largest pine trees in the grounds to make room for the erection, it has been decided, at the request of several members of the Board, to consider the matter fully at the next Board meeting. It is probable, however, that the open space where the collector stands will be appropriated, and that Professor Furlong's gift will be placed in some other spot equally suitable.

TH, DECEMBER 19, 1885
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Thursday night, when the question of erecting a band stand in the gardens was discussed. A design sent in by Mr. Sanderson was adopted, and the cost of the work is estimated to be about £100. It was resolved to contract plans to the colonial iron founders for estimates of cost before deciding to procure material from Home. Judging from the design, the stand will be quite an ornament to the grounds. It is shown as having a conical roof, supported on eight pillars, which again rest on an octagonal shaped base of concrete. Iron rollings run from pillar to pillar, and the entrance is by four steps, which are continued all the way round the structure. If funds do not permit of the whole of this band construction being put up at present, it is the intention of the Recreation Grounds Board to erect part at a time rather than have anything in the Gardens that would not do the place credit. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Sanderson for his design, which it was stated he was willing to implement by full and detailed plans. Mr. Sanderson has also kindly offered to superintend the construction.



The Flagstaff and the seats installed in 1885 are visible. Circa 1895. (NPDC Parks Dept)



“The Poet’s Bridge”. Taken on 11th February 1885 during a swimming gala. Visible is a line of bunting strung across the lake from one bank to the other. (PHO2007-030)

1886

The lake was lowered to allow the sides to be cleaned and to remove a spit of land immediately south of The Poet's Bridge on the east side. This increased the area of the lake by more than an acre.

Two large vases donated by Mr White were put in the lake to replace the Furlong Graces that were destroyed.

Darby Claffey, the caretaker of the Recreation Ground, was a bit of a character and would often tell yarns such as the case of the reported poacher. His story of killing a shag whilst in the process of swallowing a fish, by hitting it with a well thrown stone was not quite accurate. Apparently, the shag's eyes were bigger than its belly and it had the misfortune of choking itself.

Section 1086 was purchased, allowing easier access to the waterfall. The waterfall in question being the location of the present waterwheel.

Six fishing licenses issued at 10s 6d each, as the size and quantity of the fish in the lake was on the increase. It as reported that Mr R Gilmour caught eight or nine carp, weighing in at around 12lb.

After a lot of discussion ladies bathing was allowed between 8am and 11am, except Sundays. This caused a lot of concern because it was deemed necessary to close the park to men during these hours. Fortunately, a compromise was found, and it was decided to hoist a red flag on the Cannon Hill flagpole if ladies were bathing, warning gentlemen to stay away from the ladies bathing area.

With a donation of £25 from the Mayor Mr Paul and £10 10s from the fireworks display it was decided to proceed with the Band Rotunda. A design had been submitted by local architect James Sanderson, which was gratefully accepted. He also offered to supervise its construction. Scott Brothers of Christchurch were asked to quote on the structure. The price was beyond the board's funds so they decided to approach the construction in parts, the foundation first, then ordering the structure when funds would allow.

A successful fireworks display was conducted with an attendance of between 1500 and 2000 people.

Summary of significant events

- Scott Bros of Christchurch were asked to quote to supply a Band Rotunda designed by James Sanderson of New plymouth.
- Lake cleaning and enlarging started.
- Section 1086 purchased giving access to waterfall (current location of waterwheel).
- Flagstaff struck by lightning.
- Ladies allowed to bathe 8am—11am (except Sundays) and red flag introduced.
- Band Rotunda to go ahead helped by a £25 donation from Mr J. Paul.



One of White's vases that replaced a Furlong's Grace. Circa 1894 (Puke Ariki ARC2003-859/3)



Main lake looking north, circa 1885. The area highlighted shows the piece of land removed by Claffey to increase the area of the lake. He may have also excavated other areas at that time. The spit of land above the boat has an interesting bridge giving access to it. This could have been the path to the southern end of the Recreation Ground. In the background there appear to be flags flying on the Cannon Hill flagstaff. (Puke Ariki PHO2001-396)

TH, JANUARY 18, 1886
BOY POISONED EATING TUTU

One of Sergeant Deffen's children, a boy of about seven years of age, was poisoned yesterday by eating tutu berries obtained in the Recreation ground. It appears that he partook of the noxious fruit at about three in the afternoon. At nine o'clock in the evening he was taken with a vomiting fit, accompanied by itching at the mouth and discoloring of the skin, and he writhed about as if in great agonizing pain. Dr O'Carroll was immediately sent for, and his services were had a beneficial effect. This morning the lad is nearly recovered, and in a week or two it is hoped he will be none the worse for his painful experience.

TH, FEBRUARY 1, 1886
YOUTHS THROWING GLASS IN LAKE

Several youths have been committing themselves of late in such a way as to qualify themselves for an appearance in the Police Court. It seems that they have been throwing broken glass into that part of the Recreation Ground where the younger ones bathe. At this particular spot there is a shallow, sandy bottom, but if these larkia pots are not checked there will be a death from tetanus to record.

TH, FEBRUARY 1, 1886
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At the last meeting of the Recreation Board a warm debate took place on the question of whether or not sacred concerts should be allowed in the Grounds on Sundays, a request to that effect having been transmitted by the secretary of the town band to the Board, along with a copy of *El Nis*, the proceeds of the last concert given by the band. It was ultimately decided, "That the application of the secretary of the town band be acceded to, provided the sacred concerts are not held earlier than 4 p.m., and not later than 6 p.m., and that no charge be made for admission."

TH, FEBRUARY 2, 1886

RECREATION GROUNDS SWIMMING CLUB.

President: J. T. Davis. *Vice-President:* R. C. Hooper. *Commodore:* Capt. Halliwell. *Judges:* W. F. Downes, *Starters:* J. Ford and A. H. Holmes. *Stewards:* H. D. Day and A. H. Holmes. *Managers:* J. F. Selby. *Committee:* Dr. Gillett, R. Gibbons, L. Jones, R. C. Hooper, Stanleyworth, F. Humphreys, and R. De L. Bacon.

TO BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 17TH, 1886.
ON THE
ORNAMENTAL WATER
IN THE RECREATION GROUNDS.

PROGRAMME:

1. Handicap Central School Race, 75 yards (only those attending the school at the present time). 1st prize, value 7s. 6d.; 2nd prize, value 7s. 6d. Entrance, 6d.
2. Taranaki Grand Handicap, 1st event, 100 yards. 1st prize, £1. Second prize, 1s.; acceptance, 1s. (for the three events).
3. Handicap High School Race, 100 yards. 1st prize, Silver Medal; 2nd prize, 2s. 6d. Entrance, 1s.
4. Girls' Race. 1st prize, Silver Medal; 2nd prize, 1s. Entrance, 6d.
5. Taranaki Grand Handicap, 2nd event, 100 yards. 1st prize, £1. Second prize, 1s.; acceptance, 1s.
6. Handicap All Comers' Race (for boys under 15), 100 yards. 1st prize, Silver Medal; 2nd prize, 6s. Entrance, 1s.
7. Hildfield Race, 50 yards. 1st prize, 7s. 6d.; 2nd prize, 2s. 6d. Entrance, 1s.
8. Taranaki Grand Handicap, 3rd event, 100 yards. 1st prize, £1. Second prize, 1s.; acceptance, 1s.
9. Handicap Long Dive. 1st prize, £1; 2nd prize, 5s. Entrance, 1s.
10. Tag of War—Blue Ribbon v. The World. 1st prize, £1, with entrance money added; 2 more in a team. Entrance, 1s. each man.

A Silver Cup, value £7, will be given to the highest aggregate in the Taranaki Grand Handicap—so be won two times in succession, or three times at intervals. 2nd prize, Silver Medal, value £1.

All persons entering for the above races, with the exception of Nos. 1, 4, 8, and 1, must be members of the Club, otherwise they cannot compete.

NOTE.—Tag given, one shilling a member of the Club on payment of 1s.

Monetary can be handcarried to be in the hands of the Secretary by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 10th February, 1886, accompanied by a deposit of 1s. for each entry. Other events pay entry.

Acceptances will not be received after 4 p.m. on Monday, 15th February, 1886, and must be accompanied by an acceptance fee of 1s.

Slacks and drawers must be worn by all competitors, and to be approved by the Committee.

Two to compete in each race or no prize given.

The sanction of the Committee is not made in to be final.

The Committee reserves the right of altering the order of the events.

ARTHUR J. HURFORD,
181.12 5 12.22 Hon. Secretary.

TH, FEBRUARY 23, 1886
AQUATIC SPORTS RESULTS

Assured by perfect weather, the aquatic sports attracted several hundreds of people to the Recreation Grounds to-day. The New Plymouth Town Band marched from the White Hart corner up to the ground, and during the afternoon went through a select programme. The flag-staff on the hill was gaily set out with flags, and a rope bearing flags was also stretched across the lake. The following is the result of the events up to the time of going to press:—

HANDICAP CENTRAL SCHOOL RACE, 75 yards.
1st prize, value 7s. 6d.; 2nd, value, 2s. 6d.

L. Kivell... .. 1
Kirby... .. 2

Smith and Beauden also started. Time, 1min. 10sec. Won easily.

TARANAKI GRAND HANDICAP, 1st event—100 yards. 1st prize, £1.

H. C. Hooper (35 men) 1
A. Merton (30 men) 2

A great race. Won by a head. Several others started, but were detained. Time, 1min. 10sec.

HANDICAP HIGH SCHOOL RACE, 100 yards.
1st prize, Silver Medal; 2nd, 2s. 6d.

C. Goswell 1
F. Thompson 2

Brown, Brown, and Todd also started. Won easily. Time, 1min. 10sec.

GIRLS' RACE, 75 yards. 1st prize, Silver Medal; 2nd, 2s.

Todd 1
Brown 2

The other competitors started.

The Committee played a little wild deception in this event, as on the competitors arriving at the starting post the spectators discovered they were yards instead of miles. An elderly lady, who was supposed to have accompanied the girls to the starting post, showed considerable concern by looking out of the boat. The event was intensely amusing.

TARANAKI GRAND HANDICAP, 2nd event—100 yards. 1st prize, £1.

R. Gibson (30 men) 1
F. Humphreys (35 men) 2
H. Lonsdale (30 men) 3

Two others started. It was a splendid race.

TH, FEBRUARY 27, 1886

BATHING IN THE RECREATION GROUND LAKE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I understood there to be a by-law against bathing in the lake in the Recreation Ground after 4 o'clock in the morning. Do you not think, sir, that the hours of bathing might be extended, or that bathing should be allowed at all and any time, if clothing similar to that worn by the competitors in the aquatic sports were used?—(see, &c.)

BRUCEWOOD.

TH, MARCH 12, 1886
BAND STAND DESIGN FOR ESTIMATE

The design of the band stand in the Recreation Ground has been sent to Messrs Scott Bros of Christchurch, for an estimate of the cost. The stand is to be erected on Flagstaff Hill on the spot which the band usually occupies when playing in the grounds.

TH, MARCH 23, 1886
CLAFFEY CATCHES POACHER

Mr. Claffey, gardener at the Hammett grounds, effected the capture this morning of a poacher on the fishing premises of the Board. The poacher was not of the common variety, but a far more experienced fisherman than the average schoolboy, being nothing less than a slug, which was in the act of swallowing a fish which appeared to be a carp and was about 15 inches long, when the professor, with a well directed stone, landed it over and caught it whilst the fish was only half way into its beak. The bird with the fish still in its mouth is now in the possession of Mr. J. T. Davis, Chairman of the Recreation Board.

TH, MARCH 30, 1886
DONATION FOR SEAT

The Recreation Grounds Board desire to acknowledge receipt of \$3 00, from Mrs. Donaherty, proceeds of an entertainment given by her scholars, with a request that the amount be expended in the purchase of additional seats for the grounds.

TH, APRIL 5, 1886
STRAWBERRY TREES DAMAGED

The pretty foliage plants in the Recreation Grounds which bear the fruit generally called the true strawberry have been much damaged of late, by boys it is presumed, and the Recreation Grounds Board have had to take notice of the matter. A man has therefore been made watchful for prosecuting people damaging plants in the grounds in future.

TH, APRIL 10, 1886
LAKE CLEANING AND WIDENING

The pond in the Recreation Ground has been lowered, so that the sides may be cleared down, and also to allow of the point of land where the bridge being removed in order to enlarge the lake at that part.

TH, APRIL 10, 1886
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday evening, when there were present—Messrs. Davis (chairman), Hughes, J. H. Hoey, Ford, and Dr. Gilman. The question of filling in the swampy areas under consideration, and it was estimated that at least £100 would be required for the purpose. Messrs. Hoey and Ashby are to be requested to quote a price for garden waste similar to those in the New Plymouth Bowling Green; and it was also decided to tender the thanks of the Board to Mr. White, of the brick works, for his donation of rams for the grounds, and a similar vote was accorded Mr. G. Bland for his handsome present of a pair of gates, which have been put up at the Lardot-street entrance. The apple trees having shown an alarming tendency to spread, a vote of £1 was made towards subsidizing them from the grounds. A packet of seeds was received from the Government. The seeds are principally of forest trees and flowering shrubs.

TH, JUNE 12, 1886
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday night. A reply was read from Messrs. Scott Ross, Christchurch, to the enquiries as to an estimate of the cost of an iron bandstand. The price was considered too high for the Board to be able to procure it at present, but it was decided to ask whether Messrs. Scott Ross would supply it in parts. Permission was given to the Football Club to use the lawn inside the grounds for football.

TH, JULY 9, 1886
TREES TO BE PLANTED

The Recreation Grounds are being cleared up, and a number of young trees are being shifted from the beds and placed where they are required. The present area of the plantations is, however, not being extended, as it is found that the man-keeper has if anything more than he can do in keeping in order the part which has already been planted.

TH, JULY 26, 1886
BLACK WATTLE HIT BY FROST

The black wattle trees—the plant which is commercially valuable on account of its tannin—which were planted in the Recreation Grounds, have suffered severely by the late frosts.

TH, JULY 26, 1886
TROUT IN LAKE

During the time the lake in the Recreation Grounds was lowered, in order to admit of its extension, a number of fine trout could be seen. So far only large trout have been seen, so it would appear that the fish placed in the pond have not carried out the director's intention to increase and multiply.

TH, AUGUST 4, 1886
OVERVIEW OF IMPROVEMENTS

In many improvements and alterations have recently been made to the Recreation Grounds that it is worth while mentioning a few of them in order to show that the gentlemen who compose the managing Board are working well, even if they do happen to be working slowly. Most of the improvements have been made in the lake, but of course the paths and other departments have also received attention. The water was lowered some months back in order that the low-lying ground above Mr. J. T. Davis's bridge—at more properly now, the Post's Bridge—might be elevated to a level of 2 feet 6 inches below the surface of the lake when up to its proper height. These low-lying patches are the main level parts of the foot of the hills; and most of Mr. Duffley's time during the winter has been given to wheeling the earth up into the watercourse which runs into the lake and under the Post's bridge. This extension of the area of water will be very considerable, no less than about an acre and a quarter being added to the lake by it. An opportunity also presented itself of removing the dense growth of reeds from the upper area of the lake. Doing, however, to the fact that cutting the stuff would entail very much more labour and time than could be afforded, and owing also to the circumstance that it would be dangerous to attempt to burn it off, this dead reed has been left, and will perhaps be the only uncut and neglected part of the park which will enter into the account. The neglected growth will not, however, be devoid of a particular kind of picturesque interest, for it will certainly be a very natural looking corner in the grounds. The reason that it would be dangerous to attempt to clear away the dead reeds by burning is that there is a large growth of ferns near the landing, and a fire once started, would be liable to get beyond

control, and perhaps spread to all the neighbouring forests. The extension work having been completed, the outflow from the lake was stopped, in order to bring it again to its proper level; but it was subsequently decided to deepen the part which too was found to be part used by children in bathing. The outflow was accordingly not free again; but now that about a foot of earth has been taken from the children's bathing enclosure and placed outside the fence on a continuation of the shallow part, the outflow has nearly been closed, and in a day or two the level which the increasing lake imparts to the grounds will be restored. All the paths have been most scrupulously cleared of weeds and trespassing foliage, and a hard and bare surface provided. Owing to the extent of the pathway already made being as much as the caretaker can well attend to, it is intended not to increase the length or make any fresh walks at present. The same remarks would also apply to the plantations. In fact, the latter have undergone a noticeable reduction, owing to it having been found that the acacia trees were spreading most extensively, and were rising with the ferns in making themselves a nuisance. The many apple plants which were placed in the lake, at points left dry during the time the water has been run off, are supposed to have survived, and will probably get their heads above water again soon after their natural slumber has been restored to them. The fish in the grounds, which as one time were supposed to be quarantined to the matter of bringing forth abundantly of their own kind, have also shown that they have increased as well as could be expected; and the shallows of the lake, especially above the Post's bridge, are now literally thick with their young. When fish are there we also generally found shags; and Mr. Corbitt has been doing a useful duty, as well as indulging in sporting proclivity, by occasionally sending the margin of the "river" habitat with a fewling-plover. According, however, to a "well observed custom," the plovers are always away when the protection and his weapon arrive; and, so far, the only snag which has met an untimely end is one which choked itself with a carp and was entered half dead by the caretaker. There is some doubt as to whether the smallest young fish to be seen are carp or trout, but Mr. Corbitt, who has had considerable experience in the piscatorial branch of zoology, is strongly of opinion that they are the real spotted daisy; and he is in the hope that before long the funds of the Recreation Grounds Board will be considerably augmented by the means of angling licenses. In the meantime, however, donations will not be unacceptable; but even with the general support it is confidently expected that our Recreation Grounds—the success of New Plymouth which seems to be always most distinctly remembered by our visitors—will become even more beautiful, and more than justify all the sacrifices which have been heaped upon them.

TH, AUGUST 12, 1886
FUNDRAISING FOR ROTUNDA

A grand fancy dress ball in connection with the local Farmers' Lodge will be held in the Alexandra Hall on September 2nd. The proceeds will be in aid of the fund for the erection of the band rotunda in the Recreation Grounds.

**TH, AUGUST 14, 1886
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The usual monthly meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday. Present: Messrs. J. T. Davis (chairman), Ford, Corhill, J. B. Roy, Hughes, and Dr. Gibbes. The action of the Chairman in purchasing twelve 1886 was confirmed, the Chairman stating that he had made arrangements for the future payment. It was resolved that Mr. Davis be treasurer for the ensuing month, and be empowered to reduce the water in the lake to allow the erection of the foot bridge. It was also resolved to transfer the sum of £20, the donation of Mr. Paul, from the Bank of New Zealand to the New Plymouth Savings Bank. Accounts to the amount of £7. 5s. 3d. were passed for payment.

**TH, AUGUST 21, 1886
ROTUNDA FUNDRAISING**

**—FORESTER'S
PLAIN AND FANCY
DRESS BALL!**

In aid of the Great Rotunda in the Recreation Grounds.

**ALEXANDRA HALL,
Thursday, Sept. 2nd**

Under the patronage of Mrs. PAUL, Mrs. MURPHY, & MRS. B. B. B. Chairman, MRS. B. B. B. Secretary, MRS. B. B. B.

Committee: Mrs. J. T. Davis, Dr. Gibbes, J. B. Roy, J. H. Hughes, W. E. Simpson, Messrs. Ford, Corhill, Gibbes, Dr. Gibbes, Messrs. Ford, Corhill, Gibbes, Dr. Gibbes, Messrs. Ford, Corhill, Gibbes, Dr. Gibbes.

Female tickets, 1s. 6d.; Single tickets, 1s. 3d.; Boys' tickets, 6d.

Seating to commence at 8 p.m.

F. STONER,

agent & opt.

Local, N.Z.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 3, 1886
FIREWORK LIST FOR DISPLAY**

The Recreation Grounds Board will receive a consignment of fireworks by the ship "Sunder" in a few weeks, and it is intended to have a pyrotechnical display in the grounds on the 14th November. The list of fireworks which have been forwarded is—18 bright shells, 18 colored shells, 11 Bengala, 20 colored lights, 20 bright rockets, 2 salutes, 2 shooting stars, 10 bright bonfires, 24 colored rockets, 12 rockets, 4 brass jets, 2 bonfire streamers, 1 bonfire streamer, 2 bonfire streamers, 2 horizontal wheels, 1 upright wheel, 2 vertical wheels, 2 triangle bonfire wheels, 9 mines, 2 Jinks, 1 mine of colors, 2 deaths, 2 garbs, 5 bonfires, 1 cone, 2 fireworks, 2 rockets, 1 pipe. The bonfire price is 25s. 6d. In addition to these articles the firm from whom they were purchased have included two minutes necessary for setting off the fireworks.

**TH, OCTOBER 9, 1886
PLANTS STOLEN**

It has been discovered that all the beautiful aquatic plants presented to the Recreation Grounds Board by Mr. Laird, of Wanganui, have been stolen from the lake. They were taken some months ago, but the theft has only been discovered now that the plants should be making their appearance after the winter season. The names of the delinquents, who are two boys, have been ascertained, but as the lake has hitherto had an unblemished reputation the Board hesitates to adopt the severe measure of placing the matter in the hands of the police. It is hoped that the plants will be immediately restored to Mr. O'Leary, the caretaker of the grounds. If

they restore the Board intend to make an example of the youthful offenders. The aquatic plants which have been stolen are very valuable, some of them being priced at as much as £2 for a single rock.

**TH, OCTOBER 9, 1886
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

A MEETING of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday evening. Present: Messrs. J. T. Davis (chairman), Hughes, Ford, Corhill, and Dr. Gibbes.

Finance.—It was resolved that all tenants of the Board require notice that all farms must be vacated from the grounds in their possession.

Finance.—The thanks of the Board were tendered to Mr. G. W. Gerritt for his gratuitous services in completing the title for the section lately purchased by the Board. It was also commented upon that Mr. Gerritt was a most regular contributor to the Board's funds.

Services.—It was decided to ask the Volunteer band and the Scout Band band if they will give their services on the occasion of the fireworks' demonstration some three next month.

Services Meeting.—Captain Smith, of the Salvation Army, applied for permission to hold an occasional Sunday afternoon service in the Recreation Grounds. The request was acceded to, but every precaution must be taken to prevent injury to the grounds or shrubs.

By-laws.—It was decided to post up the Board's by-laws in a conspicuous place in the grounds.

Quarter.—Mr. Paul was appointed treasurer for the ensuing month. The Board rose.

**TH, OCTOBER 27, 1886
FLAGSTAFF DAMAGED**

The flagstaff in the Recreation Ground appears to have been struck by lightning on Monday night, the vase having sustained injuries which can only be accounted for in that way.

**TH, OCTOBER 30, 1886
SWIMMING CLUB AGM**

The annual meeting of the Recreation Ground Swimming Club was held on Monday, Mr. J. T. Davis in the chair. The statement of accounts showed a credit balance of £1 1s. The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. J. T. Davis; vice-presidents, His Worship the Mayor and Mr. O. Samuel, M.H.E.; secretary, Mr. A. Martin; treasurer, Mr. Crickbank; committee, Messrs. R. C. Hughes, R. Gillman, W. H. Southworth, T. Poole, and W. E. Simpson. It was proposed by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Simpson, "That the Secretary be instructed to write to the Recreation Grounds Board, asking permission for the use of the grounds on Wednesday, 19th January. The subscription will be 1s. the same as last year. The gentlemen who have been elected vice-presidents will be asked to consent in each election. The proceedings terminated with the usual compliments to the chair.

**TH, NOVEMBER 11, 1886
PLANT DONATION**

The Recreation Grounds Board desire to acknowledge the donation of a parcel of aquatic plants from Mr. James Laird of Wanganui.

**TH, NOVEMBER 13, 1886
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

THE Recreation Ground Board met on Friday evening. Present: Messrs. J. T. Davis (chairman), Corhill, Skinner, Ford, Roy, and Dr. Gibbes.

Boat.—It was resolved that the application of —Gerritt for the reduction of his rent to 10s. be acceded to.

Fishing.—It was decided that six fishing licenses be granted at 10s. 6d. each, and to be subject to such conditions as may be decided on.

Swimming Club.—A letter was received from the secretary of the Swimming Club asking permission to hold aquatic sports in the grounds on 19th January next, and to charge for admission.—Acceded to, provided 25 per cent. of the takings at the gate are allotted to the Board.

Fireworks.—It was resolved that the fireworks demonstration be held on Tuesday, 16th instant, and the usual charge of 1s. for adults and 6d. for children be imposed; also that the fireworks committee consist of the members of the Board, and that the following gentlemen be asked to assist, viz., Messrs. Cottler, W. L. Newman, Cook, H. B. Roy, Devereux, and Dr. Gibbes.

Boating.—It was resolved that the hours of boating for ladies and girls be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Sundays excepted.

The Board rose.

**TH, NOVEMBER 13, 1886
BATHING FLAG INTRODUCED**

The Recreation Grounds Board have decided to allow "ladies and girls" to bathe in the lake at the Recreation Grounds between the hours of 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sundays excepted. It was also suggested that a resolution should be passed prohibiting the other sex from entering the grounds during the ladies' hours.

**TH, NOVEMBER 22, 1886
BAND ROTUNDA TO PROCEED**

With the 12s which was donated by Mr. Paul and the £10 10s. voted from the proceeds of the fireworks display, the Recreation Grounds Board find themselves possessed of sufficient funds to commence the erection of the band stand in the garden. The plans have been referred to Mr. Sanderson, and Mr. Skinner has undertaken to erect and the quantities in connection with the concrete and earthwork. The site of the stand will be on the flag-staff hill, at the spot which the band usually occupies.

DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS.

THE scene in the Recreation Grounds on Tuesday evening was an occurrence to be remembered. The fact that about 240 was taken at the gates is a sufficient proof of the success of the fireworks display from the pecuniary point of view. That the affair was a success from a spectacular point of view also goes without saying, seeing that the Recreation Grounds Board had taken the matter in hand so earnestly, and had procured such an unprecedented supply of bright and colored shells, bangs, colored lights, bright rockets, asteroids, shooting stars, bright and colored Roman structures, jewel sets, bouquet holders, bouquet streamers, ditto paras, horizontal wheels, cupras ditto, vertical ditto, Roman ditto, cones of jets, masses of colors, and such other things as banners, fortillions, serpents, devils, and pyramids. With all these contrivances, with a favorable evening as regards weather, and with an efficient staff of operators, success from the spectacular point of view must be as undoubted as from the financial. Then there were other elements of enjoyment in the two bands, which took up positions in the ground and discoursed sweet music to the 1,500 or 2,000 people who were present.

People were gathered in crowds all around the lake, or more properly, in one corner; fireworks were being let off from the hills on each side, from a boat on the lake, and from the bridge, all simultaneously; the landscape was now green, now blue, and now some other color, according to the particular firework of the kind last mentioned was being set off.

The following was the position of the "firing parties." In the boat upon the lake were Messrs. Cockill, W. Newman, and Cottler; on the East Hill, Messrs. Morris Ford, H. B. Roy, and D. Gibbon; on the West Hill, Dr. Gibbon, and Messrs. H. Gibbon and Cook. Mr. G. J. Newman assisted generally. The four entrances to the grounds were in charge of either members of the Board, or gentlemen who gave their services. Messrs. T. K. Skinner and Mansour were at the Corporation Road gate; Messrs. R. C. Hughes and Ford at the Lardet-street gate; Mr. J. E. Roy at the upper gate; and Mr. Maher at Gilbert's Islet. The Volunteer Band marched from Devon-street to the grounds a little before eight. At eight a start was made with the fireworks, and the last of the stock was not sent off until a few minutes after ten. The two bands should be specially mentioned. The Volunteer Band took up its position on the side of Stagstaff Hill, and the Smart Road Band fired up a stand near the bathing-house. At the conclusion of the proceedings, Dr. Gibbon and Mr. Cockill took occasion to publicly thank the bands, by tendering them the gratitude of the Recreation Grounds Board and of the general public for their services, which had contributed so much to the enjoyment of the occasion. The popularity of the display of Tuesday will probably result in the establishment of a regular annual pyrotechnical festival in the gardens.

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday. Present: Messrs. J. T. Davis (chairman), Skinner, Ford, Cockill, and Dr. Gibbon.

Minutes.—A vote was passed thanking the gentlemen who assisted at the fireworks display.

Band Staff.—£10 10s. of the proceeds of the display was voted to the fund for building a band stand in the grounds.

Queen's Jubilee.—It was decided to send to England for a consignment of fireworks which will be used on the evening of the Queen's Jubilee day, in June next year.

The Board rose.

TH, DECEMBER 3, 1886
FISHING IN THE LAKE

Several anglers who have scolded themselves of the issue of licenses by the Recreation Grounds Board were fishing in the lake in the garden on Thursday, and some of them landed fish. Mr. H. Gibbon was the most successful, he taking eight or nine carp. This catch would weigh about 12 lbs.

TH, DECEMBER 6, 1886

RESCUE FROM DROWNING IN
RECREATION GROUNDS.
PLUCKY CONDUCT OF TWO
YOUNG LADIES.

A narrow escape from drowning occurred in the Recreation Grounds on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. Two little girls were playing on the spring-board, which projects into the lake at a spot where the water is about twenty feet deep, when one of them, named Ellen Maine, aged 4, fell off. The accident was observed by Miss Kathleen Thompson and Miss Maria Todd, who were bathing close by, and they immediately hastened to the spot. Miss Kathleen Thompson, who is 14 years of age, being a very expert swimmer, struck out to where the little one was struggling, and she succeeded in seizing it after it had sunk twice and was on the point of sinking the third time. Miss Thompson was, however, unable to swim ashore with the child. She therefore supported it above the water until Miss Todd, a young lady of seventeen, came to her assistance. Together they managed to bring the child to land and at once had it despatched home. The little one had the next day almost entirely recovered from the effects of its immersion. The two young ladies are certainly to be complimented on the part they took in the matter. Miss Kathleen Thompson is the eldest daughter of Mr. Thompson, the Collector of Customs at New Plymouth, and Miss Todd is his niece, and is at present residing with his family.

THE Recreation Grounds Board met on Tuesday evening. Present: Messrs. Cockill, Skinner, Ford, Roy, Hughes, and Dr. Gibbon.

Minutes.—A letter was read from the Volunteer Band offering to give an alternate promenade concert in the grounds and asking permission to hold a sacred concert on Christmas Day. Accorded to.—The Smart Road Band wrote, agreeing to give an alternate evening concert.—The Chairman and Secretary were authorised to arrange with the bands re the concerts.

Fireworks Display.—It was decided that the next fireworks fire be held on the evening of New Year's day; also that the members of the Board who had charge of the gates at the last fire take charge of and arrange for the fireworks display.

Band Staff.—It was resolved that tenders be called for removing earth so as to bring the level of the site of the band stand to within 5 ft of the pathway.

This was all the business.

TH, DECEMBER 29, 1886
DODGY DONATIONS

The donations at the social concert given by the Garrison Band in the Recreation Grounds on Christmas Day amounted to £2 3s 3/4. The donation boxes also contained a large number of butter, cheese, and other articles of little or no value.

TH, NOVEMBER 26, 1886
DAVIS DUPED

The procreancy of the colonial youth is proverbial. They frequently do things which cause the aged amongst us to shake their heads and grovelly express admiration as to what the world really is coming to. A good instance of this youthful procreancy occurred during the week. Mr. J. T. Davis, the Chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, was going through the gardens a couple of evenings ago when he came upon three lads fishing in the lake. In reply to his enquiry whether they were not aware that they were doing what they ought not to do, one of them said: "We got permission from Mr. Ford; here is the paper if you want to see it;" at the same time putting his hand into one of his pockets as if to produce something. Mr. Davis concluded that the boy was telling the truth, and said he supposed that it was all right. However, he sent Mr. Morris Ford shortly afterward and mentioned the circumstance to him. Mr. Ford's surprise on hearing what the boys had stated was only equalled by Mr. Davis' amazement at finding that he had been deceived.

1887

The year started with work on the Band Rotunda. Cannon Hill had to be cut back several feet to make space for it. The earth removed was placed behind the dam to give it more strength and to raise the level of the path leading down to what is now the Hatchery Lawn. The concrete base was laid but suffered a couple of acts of vandalism delaying its completion. However, it was completed in time to be used by the Taranaki Rifles Brass Band during Queen Victoria's 50th Jubilee celebrations. Because of the lack of funds, the top was not erected until 1891.

There were two more cannons donated to the Recreation Ground, one by W. L. Newman which was said to be a Barrett cannon and a second by Mr Hoskin of Waitara accompanied by a 68lb cannon ball. The cannon ball was said to be fired from the H.M.S *Pelorus*.

A five-acre section of land originally part of Brooklands, lying between the Recreation Ground and the racecourse, acquired by the Jockey Club was offered to the Board. This land was of no use to the Jockey Club and eventually they would hand it over to the Recreation Ground Board. Over the years there were several land swaps. The two groups had a good relationship and often had people on the executive of both boards including J. T. Davis, W. L. Newman, R. Cock, and C. W. Govett.

Some birds were introduced to the grounds. The Acclimatisation Society released two brace of English Starlings and a Mr Loveridge donated a Mollymawk which he had caught on a hook and line at the Sugarloaves. Unfortunately, the bird was attacked suffering a broken leg and had to be destroyed.

The Board always looking for extra sources of income decided to issue eel fishing licenses for 2s 6d.

Summary of significant events

- Band Rotunda earthworks completed, and construction of base started.
- One of Dicky Barrett's cannons is mounted on the path near the lake.
- Mr W. L. Newman donates a cannon to the Recreation Grounds.
- Band Rotunda base used during Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebration.
- Third cannon donated to Recreation Grounds.
- Jockey Club offer for sale five acres of land adjoining the park.

TH, JANUARY 4, 1887
FIREWORKS DISPLAY

THE FIREWORKS.

A pyrotechnical display was given in the Recreation Ground on Monday night by the Recreation Ground Board, when the takings amounted to £38. The night was most suitable for the occasion. The lake was glassy smooth, and the fireworks were beautifully depicted by the reflection on the water. There were three points from which the display was made; viz, from a platform above the Foot's Bridge, and from the hill on each side of the lake. Messrs. G. L. Newman and W. L. Newman and Dr. Gibbs were stationed at the platform, and Messrs. Corbitt, R. D. Ray, and H. Gilmore on the hill sides, and the gates were attended to by Messrs. Foot and T. K. Skinner. The platform over the bridge was a great convenience, as it allowed an uninterrupted promenade around the lake. The timber used in its construction had been kindly lent by Messrs. Shuttleworth Esqs., and Mr. G. L. Newman did the necessary work. The Garrison Band, under Mr. Garry, were present in the grounds, and witnessed the proceedings.

TH, JANUARY 4, 1887
FOUNDATION CLEARING TENDER

The tender of Mr. J. Roberts, at 5jd. a yard, has been accepted for clearing away the foundation of the band rotunda in the Recreation Ground. The earth is to be deposited below the dam, in order to raise the pathway by the lower pond. This pathway at present is very damp, and the alteration will be a great improvement.

TH, JANUARY 7, 1887
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A special meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Thursday evening, for the purpose of considering a petition received by them asking that bathing in the lake be permitted sometime during the evening. It was decided that the Board had no authority to accede to the request of the petition. It was pointed out that such a privilege could not be allowed unless the present by-laws, which were approved of by the Governor, were revoked, and the gubernatorial sanction obtained for the alteration, and the amendments then duly granted. The by-laws of the Board read that "no bathing be allowed after 8 a.m." By this regulation even the present allowance of bathing hours to 11 a.m. for ladies could be objected to by private people.

TH, JANUARY 13, 1887
ELUSIVE FISH

The Recreation Grounds Board have decidedly had the best of the bargain in the issue of fishing licenses for the taking of fish from the lake. The anglers fondly expected that they would be able to catch some of the "two foot" trout which are frequently seen swimming lazily about the edges and shallow water. These desirable fish, however, won't look at any sort of bait, even when it is dangled in front of their noses, and are too knowing to rise to an artificial fly.

TH, JANUARY 19, 1887

AQUATIC SPORTS
TODAY.

PARTISAN: J. J. Davis, Vice-president; O. Samuel and Jas. Fidd, Secretaries; Captain Hubert, Judge; E. G. Hancock, Starter; J. Paul and W. F. Brown, Handicappers; S. B. Ray and A. H. Holmes, Timekeeper; J. E. Hoar, Committee; Dr. Gilson, R. G. Houghton, W. E. Hampton, S. Gilmore, W. H. Shuttleworth, F. Humphreys, and T. Farling, Secretary; Arthur Norton, Treasurer; A. Criswell.

The weather to-day proved most suitable for the aquatic sports, and even early in the afternoon the attendance of spectators was large. The sports are being held about a month earlier this year than usual, so as not to clash with a Fling of the Recreation Grounds Board which is to ensue while the volunteers are in New Plymouth for the Easter Reconquest. This alteration in the date is really an improvement, as the water is now not so chilly for the competitors as it would be later in the season. During this morning the Committee were busily engaged in stretching flags across the lake, and fixing the obstacles for the steeple race. The Garrison Band, under Mr. Garry, were present in the grounds. The first event started at 2 p.m.

The following are the results of the events finished up to the time of writing to press:—

Handicap Central School Race, 75 yards, 1st prize, 7s 6d; 2nd, 2s 6d.—Williams (Sears), 1; Webster (Sear), 2; Mylott (Sears), 3. Time, 1m 15sec.

All comers race—100 yards; 1st prize £1; 2nd 2s; Shuttleworth, 1; Kerth, 2; Gibson, 3. Time 1m 19sec.

Handicap High School Race, 100 yards, 1st prize, 10s; 2nd, 2s 6d.—F. Standish (Sear), 1; W. Hazzell (Sear), 2. Time, 1m 40sec.

Yarasaki Grand Handicap; 1st event, 100 yds. 1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd 10s. Hine (Sears) 1st; Mawitt (Sears) 2nd; Curwall (Sears) 3rd. Twelve started. Time, 1m 17sec.

Handicap All Comers' Race (for boys under 15); 100 yards. 1st prize, 10s; 2nd, 5s.—Stevens (Sear), 1; Hock (Sear), 2; Strivener (Sears), 3.

Yarasaki Grand Handicap; 2nd event; 250 yards—1st prize, £3; 2nd, 10s; Curwall (Sears), 1; Hine (Sears), 2; Mawitt (Sears) 3. Time, 4m 17sec.

TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1887
TREES BLOWN DOWN

Three plane trees were blown down in the Recreation Grounds on Saturday.

TH, MARCH 1, 1887
ROTUNDA EARTHWORKS FINISHED

The earthwork for the band rotunda in the Recreation Ground was finished to-day, and the concrete work is to be immediately commenced. The iron roofing will not be put on until the Recreation Grounds Board have more funds in hand, the money at present available being only sufficient to construct the raised dais on which the ornamental iron ceiling and roof will subsequently be erected. The concrete foundation, or dais, is to be of octagonal shape, and the ascent will be by six steps, which will extend the whole circumference. There is to be a low pedestal in the centre, so that the bandmaster may have an elevated position from which to conduct the band. The cost of the work, including the iron roofing and canopy, will be about £150, but omitting the first two items the expenditure at present will not exceed £50. The Board, however, have only £40 in hand, and have had to arrange an advance for the remainder. Mr. H. Hooker is the contractor for the work.

TH, MARCH 12, 1887
BARRETT CANNON

One of Barrett's cannons, which was presented to the Recreation Grounds Board, has now been mounted and placed in position on the walk around the lake. This ancient piece of gunnery has been painted and generally improved in appearance, and now gives little indication, having its make, of being one of the earliest relics of European settlement extant in the province.

TH, MARCH 17, 1887
ROTUNDA BASE DAMAGED

We understand that some mischievous person last night knocked off some of the concrete from the steps now in course of construction in the Recreation Grounds. This not only causes an extra outlay to the Board in getting the damage repaired, but delays the progress of the work. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the public will not interfere with the steps in future.

TH, MARCH 29, 1887
STARLINGS RELEASED IN GROUNDS

The Yarasaki Acclimatization Society received a batch of ten boxes of English starlings on Sunday, and the birds were liberated on Monday in the Recreation Grounds. Starlings are insectivorous birds, and are expected to be of service to agriculturists.

TH, APRIL 2, 1887
ROTUNDA BASE DAMAGED AGAIN

The concrete foundation of the Band Rotunda in the Recreation Ground, now in course of construction, has suffered to a considerable extent by having large portions of the same stamped away. A reward is offered for information as to the perpetrator.

TH, APRIL 25, 1887

RECREATION GROUND BOARD.

THE BOARD met on Friday last. Present: Messrs. J. T. Davis (chairman), Cockill, Ford, Skinner, and Roy.

Meeting at Parkfoot.—Mr. Thompson having given up a paddock, Mr. Francis applied for the same, and offered £4 10s. a year.—The offer was accepted.

Earthwork.—It was resolved that the claim of Mr. J. Roberts of 14d. per yard for 181 yards over his contract be given.

Procure of Section.—It was resolved that an additional £3 be paid to Mr. Doest on account of purchase money of section.

Accounts.—Several accounts were passed for payment.

Cannon and Carriage.—It was resolved that a very cordial vote of thanks be forwarded to Mr. W. L. Newman for his very generous gift of a cannon and carriage to the grounds.

Band Stand.—It was resolved that one or more barrels of tar and some gravel be obtained, and that the same used in finishing the top of the Band Stand.

Nightly Warden.—Mr. Cockill was appointed to overlook the work being done during the month.

The Board then adjourned.

TH, JUNE 21, 1887
ROTUNDA BASE USED FOR
QUEEN VICTORIA'S 50TH JUBILEE

OPEN-AIR BAND CONCERT.

There was a very good turn out of the public in the Recreation Grounds to attend the open-air performance of the Terrasaki Rifles Band, the taking of the gates, we understand, amounting for nearly 200 persons. The new stand is a handsome piece of work, reflecting credit upon the beautiful grounds that it forms a part of, and when completed will add much to the general effect of the scene. When funds will admit it is intended to erect a canopy over it and form a veranda, and also to stop the somewhat steep cutting that has been made in front of the erection of the stand. The cost of the work up to the present, we understand, has been £78, and it will take about £100 additional to complete it. Under the direction of Bandmaster Garry a very choice and popular programme of music was performed, in the course of which the spectators frequently showed their appreciation by applause.

TH, JULY 6, 1887
THE POET'S BRIDGE DEFACED

A most wanton act has been perpetrated in the Recreation Ground, being no less than the wrenching off of the iron plates that were screwed on to the Poets Bridge bearing the name of the donor. The matter has been placed in the hands of police, and we hope that the culprits will be discovered and punished with the utmost severity.

TH, JULY 25, 1887
FIVE ACRES OF LAND OFFERED

At a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Trustees, on Friday night, an offer was received from the owners of about five acres of land which lies between the recreation and the Botanical Gardens. If the public could be induced and assist the trustees we understand that the ground will be purchased. It will form a very suitable addition to the present area, as it is a much worn picnic parties, &c., resort in the summer season.

TH, AUGUST 20, 1887

RECREATION RESERVE BOARD

THE Recreation Reserve Board met on Friday evening, when the following members were present:—Messrs. J. T. Davis (chairman), Hughes, Skinner, Roy, Ford, and Dr. Gibben.

Harbour Rates.—It was resolved that the Board decline to pay the claim made by the Harbour Board for rates, the grounds being a public reserve.

Defective Drain.—Mr. SKINNER drew the attention of the Board to the dangerous state of the drain near the hatchway, and the imperative necessity of something being done to prevent further damage.—It was resolved to obtain the cost of the material necessary for the above work.

Gun Carriage.—It was resolved that the thanks of the Board be tendered to Mr. W. H. Skinner for his generous donation for mounting the gun; and that the offer of Mr. Cockill to fix a plate with the history of the gun be accepted with thanks. The Board rose.

TH, AUGUST 30, 1887
THIRD CANNON DONATED

The Secretary of the Recreation Ground Board has requested us to acknowledge the receipt of a donation from Mr. W. F. Hawks, of Walters West, of an old cannon and a 28lb cannon ball. The cannon, we believe, was one used by the Maoris in the war; and the ball was the one fired by the Naval Brigade of H.M.S. Palawan, which did such service during the war under command of Commodore Seymour, now Lord Alchester.

TH, SEPTEMBER 9, 1887
FUNDRAISING

At the St. John's Ambulance Class meeting on Thursday evening, the following Committee was elected to arrange matters in connection with giving an entertainment for the benefit of the Recreation Grounds:—Messrs. Wright, George, Skelton, Skinner, Brooking, Shaw, McKean, T. Humphreys, Dr. Gibben, Gray, and Veale.

TH, NOVEMBER 25, 1887
MOLLY HAWK DONATED

A mollyhawk, measuring 6 feet from tip to tip of wings, was caught on Wednesday at the Sugarloaves by Mr. S. Lovelidge, with a hook and line. He presented the bird to the Recreation Grounds, where, with its wings clipped it is now feeding. The bird has a most voracious appetite, eating as much as 1½ of beef at a time.

TH, DECEMBER 10, 1887
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

THE Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs. J. T. Davis (chairman), R. C. Hughes, T. E. Skinner, Elsie Ford, J. H. Roy, and Dr. Gibben.

Vote of thanks.—A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Cockill for his donation of a handsome New Zealand standard.

A request.—Mr. Skelton, as secretary of the Church of Christ denomination, applied for the use of the hall for an insurance service on Sunday morning next.—Permission granted.

Sports ground.—Mr. T. Hills, secretary of the Cycling Club, wrote in connection with getting the north-west corner of the grounds as a sports ground.—On Mr. Roy's motion, seconded by Dr. Gibben, it was decided "That a sub-committee—the chairman, and Messrs. Ford and Skinner—confer with the Cycling Club, and inform them the Board is favourable to the proposal made, but would require more details; the Committee to report at next meeting of the Board."

Lantern.—It was decided to issue 2s 6d licences for cat fishing, and 2s 6d to be charged for use of halibut boxes during the season.

Proceedings.—The custodian was to be instructed to take proceedings against all persons having dogs in their following in the grounds.

Public Meeting.—The Chairman visited that part of the portion of the Boodlands estate, recently purchased by the Jockey Club, was a most suitable place for picnicking, as it adjoined the grounds, and was well wooded. The Jockey Club was willing to sell this part to the Board on very reasonable terms. It was resolved "That a public meeting of ladies and gentlemen interested in getting up a fancy fair to provide funds for the purchase of the bush portion,—four or five acres—of the Boodlands estate (suitable for a picnic paddock), and the occupation of the band stands, be called at an early date, the Chairman to make arrangements, if possible, with the land authorities for a series of evening outdoor concerts during the summer months."

The Board adjourned.

At the Recreation Grounds Board meeting on Friday night, a resolution was passed asking the police to make enquiries as to the persons who broke the leg of the Molly Hawk that was recently liberated in the grounds. Besides breaking the bird's leg, the perpetrators painted its back. It is a pity that the doers of such heinous acts could not be found out, and accords punishment meted out to them. The bird will not recover from the injuries it has received, and will therefore have to be destroyed.

TH, DECEMBER 17, 1887
TALK OF ATHLETICS CLUB

Representatives of the Pioneer Cycling, Athletics, Terrasaki Football, and United Football Clubs met in the Bridge Club-room, on Friday night, for the purpose of considering the question of getting suitable athletic grounds. Mr. R. S. Roy was elected chairman, who stated that the matter is the matter had chosen the Recreation Grounds for consideration. After discussion, the following resolutions were arrived at: "That three-fourths each Club be

appointed a general committee to carry out the undertaking of forming a ground in the Recreation Reserve, such committee to enquire into costs and full particulars, and report on the same a fortnight hence." There were representations from the new cricket club present, but they withdrew, as they considered that cricket and football clubs should not use the same ground.

TH, DECEMBER 17, 1887
FUNDRAISING

A WELL-ATTENDED public meeting of ladies and gentlemen interested in holding a fancy fair to raise funds for the Recreation Grounds Board, for purposes mentioned elsewhere, was held in the Council Chamber on Friday night, when the chairman of the Board (Mr J. T. Davis) presided. The question of time was discussed for some time, it being eventually decided on Dr. Ginn's proposition, seconded by Mr. Parr, "That a fancy fair be held in the Recreation Grounds during the first week of March for the purpose of raising funds for the completion of the grounds, and the balance of the money raised thereby to go towards such other improvements in the grounds as may be deemed necessary."

Mr. Givern proposed "That out of the moneys raised from the fancy fair £ for £ be appropriated towards the reclamation of the swamp."

Mr. Parr, moved as an amendment, "That the funds be dealt with according to the discretion of the Board."

As Mr. Givern withdrew his amendment, Mr. Parr's amendment passed, and the matter stood as it was.

The following provisional committee of ladies and gentlemen was appointed:— Messrs. Bayle (Mayor), Bennett, Paul, Givern, C. Bennett, R. Harley, J. T. Davis, Besset, Gibson, Maria Ford, Roy, Derrick, Cook, A. C. Foster, Davidson, W. Okey, Goldwater, T. Humphries, Davies, and Yates; Misses Humphries, Jackson (2), Todd, Solo, Duttler, Okey, Hampton (2), and Godfrey (2); and the Mayor and Messrs. G. Bennett, Givern, Skett, Bayley, Cook, Goldwater, Mills, P. Jackson, R. E. Roy, Morrey, and the members of the Board, with power to add to their number.

The first meeting of the Committee takes place in the Council Chamber on Wednesday next at 8 p.m.

TH, DECEMBER 22, 1887
FUNDRAISING

The Committee appointed to arrange matters in connection with the fancy fair to be held in the Recreation Grounds in the first week in March next, met in the Council Chamber on Wednesday afternoon. There were present the Mayor (Mrs Bayly), and Messrs. G. Bennett, Goldwater, R. Cook, Davidson, Misses Humphries and Solo; and the Mayor and Messrs. R. E. Roy, T. Mills, J. T. Davis, and Maria Ford. Mr. Davis was in the chair. An offer from Messrs. Cook and Goldwater to provide for, and take charge of, the refreshment department on the day of the fair, was accepted with thanks. The Mayor was appointed to preside at all Committee meetings, on the motion of Mrs. Goldwater seconded by Miss Solo. The Mayor suggested that the gentlemen on the Committee should meet as early as possible after the holidays, and it was unanimously decided to do so. The ladies decided to have their first meeting on January 8. The meeting terminated in the usual way.

1888

This was a quiet year for the Recreation Ground. The only real highlight being a Fancy Fair in March to raise desperately needed funds. The fair was to be held in the Recreation Ground in the area of the Band Rotunda. Lots of activities were planned, such as Aunt Sally, greasy pole, Punch and Judy, duck hunt, tub race, shooting galleries, etc. Unfortunately, the morning of the fair was wet and cold and a decision was made to have it at the Alexandra Hall in town that evening instead. Even at such short notice the fair was a success. All the Board members actively partook in the proceedings. As was usually the case Mrs Humphries (wife of the late Dr. Humphries) the driving force behind the organising of the fair. A profit of £61 14s was realised.

During the year, the Board got prices for supply and erection of the Band Rotunda which far exceeded what they were able to afford, therefore the plan was put on hold.

It was published that 'The Recreation Board are at present adding a considerable number of trees to the grounds. The trees are all new to this place, being the product of American seed forwarded by the Government to the Board some three years ago.' This probably relates to the mention of seed it received in 1886 and the possible/probable source of trees such as, *Pinus torreyana*, *Sequoia sempervirens*, *Cupressus macrocarpa* and *Cupressus macnabiana*.

A diphtheria pandemic during the year was a major event in New Plymouth.

Summary of significant events

- Purchase of Band Rotunda put on hold due to lack of funds.



Main lake looking north. In the foreground newly formed islands, circa 1895
(Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, N.Z. Ref. G- 21383-1/2).

TH, JANUARY 7, 1888
FUNDRAISING

FANCY FAIR IN THE "REC."

The Committee appointed to arrange matters in connection with the Fancy Fair to be held in the "Rec." next March, for the purpose of raising funds to improve the grounds, etc., met in the Council Chambers on Friday evening, 30. J. T. Davis, chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, presiding.

There were present: MacLachlan (Clerk), Davis, Goldwater, Ford, and Davidson, Misses Selk, and Jackson, the Mayor, and Messrs. Cook, Street, Mills, Goldwater, Murray, G. Rossell, and Dr. Gilbert. After some discussion the following resolutions were arrived at, "That Messrs. W. Bennett, F. Jackson, and T. Mills, be a Committee to enquire for donations in aid of the fair," and "That the Mayor (Mr. Bayly) be requested to call a meeting of all ladies interested for an afternoon next week." A subscription list was opened in the room, and the sum of £20 was promised. Some interest is being displayed in the matter, and the Fair will be very successful without a doubt.

TH, JANUARY 11, 1888
FUNDRAISING

FANCY FAIR IN "REC."

A number of ladies interested in getting up the fancy fair in the Recreation Grounds in March next, to raise funds for improving the grounds, was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday afternoon, the Mayor (Mrs. Bayly) presiding. There was a large attendance, and after some discussion it was decided to hold meetings every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 3 o'clock, Mrs. Yates having kindly offered to provide tea for those present at them. Messrs. Harris Ford and J. T. Davis were authorized to expend £5 in purchasing materials to work up. Mrs. Goldwater was appointed treasurer, and Miss Gray secretary. It was decided that invitations should be issued to ladies wishing to take part. Donations of any description will be thankfully received at any of the meetings, the ladies also being authorized to solicit the same.

TH, JANUARY 18, 1888
FUNDRAISING

The ladies interested in the getting up of the Fancy Fair to raise funds for the Recreation Grounds met in the Council Chambers for work on Tuesday afternoon and evening, between the hours of 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock. A great deal of work was accomplished, and if the same amount of interest should be manifested on all future Tuesday afternoons and evenings the success of the fair can be counted on with certainty. The articles being worked up by the ladies are really

useful. Mrs. Yates kindly provided tea for the ladies.

TH, JANUARY 27, 1888
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

RECREATION GROUNDS BOARD.

The Recreation Grounds Board was held on Thursday night. Present: Messrs. Davis (chairman), Hughes, Stewart, Ford, and Corhill.

Swimming Club.—Mr. Cruickshank, secretary of the Swimming Club, wrote asking for permission to hold the annual Aquatic Sports in the grounds on Wednesday, February 8th; and also asking permission to make a change at the gates.—After some discussion, the Board, believing that holding these sports just before their Fancy Fair would detract from the success of the latter, decided to form a committee that would consult with the Aquatic Club to get the sports held on the first day of the fair, and to arrange all details in reference to them. It was also thought better to give medals instead of money prizes at the sports.

Balance-sheet and Report.—The annual balance-sheet and report were read and adopted, the former showing that the funds of the Board were very low.

Treasurer.—Mr. Hughes was appointed treasurer for the month.

Fireworks.—It was decided to get some fireworks, if funds would permit, at some future date for a pyrotechnic display.

TH, FEBRUARY 4, 1888
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday night, when the question of granting the use of the grounds to the Aquatic Sports Club on a day, other than the one on which the Fancy Fair would be held, was discussed at considerable length. As the ladies, however, had determined not to hold the Fair until the very end of March almost, the Board considered that the Club should have the grounds before that, as it was pointed out that it might be rather too cold for such sport on the Fair days. It was then decided that the Club could fix on a day within three weeks from date, the Board to have 15 per cent. of the gate money taken by the Club. The matter of the Fair was afterwards discussed, and as the Ladies' Committee had run short of funds in purchasing material to work up for the stalls, each member of the Board plucked down £1 a piece to help them. This (Saturday) morning a letter was received by Mr. Harris Ford, the secretary, from a lady, named F. Marshall, who offered the Board a fee if she could get permission to teach swimming in the pond in the grounds during the season. After the secretary had seen several members of the Board the permission was given.

TH, MARCH 21, 1888
FUNDRAISING

Arrangements for holding the Fancy Fair in the Recreation Grounds on Wednesday next are being rapidly made, and so far everything goes promise of the success of the undertaking. The Ladies' Sewing Committee, who have for the last few months met in the Council Chambers

every Tuesday afternoon and evening, have worked most industriously in making up goods, both fancy and useful, for the stalls, and have been also indefatigable in their efforts in getting donations, which have exceeded their most sanguine expectations. The ground to the right of the hand entrance has been chosen as the site for the stalls—four in number—comprising three large ones for the goods and one large refreshment stall, the ornaments at which will be dressed in fancy costumes. There will be no lack of music, as the Rifles Band under Mr. G. Barry, and the Smart Road Band under Mr. T. Hughes have signified their willingness to attend. All the gentlemen who have been asked to take the games in hand have consented. Besides the attractions of the stalls, there will be Punch and Judy shows, Aunt Sally, groovy pole, and horse cap-pittings, an obstacle bicycle race under the auspices of the Pioneer Club, children's races, duck boat, tub race, shooting galleries, pig boat, and other numerous attractions. The bicycle obstacle race, in which a number of "gentlemen" will compete, will be run along the west side of the pond, over some rough ground at the back of the Grounds, where a number of benches will have to be constructed, and run down the eastern side here. This course will entail the meeting of the machine on several occasions, and will be a test of the staying power of the competitors. In the evening a concert will be given in the grounds, and a pyrotechnic display on a limited scale will also be given. It is likely that a number of gentlemen will attend the Fair in fancy costumes. Much credit is due to the Ladies' Sewing Committee, who, under the Mayor (Mrs. W. Bayly), have worked so hard to insure success for the undertaking. The Fair will be opened at 2 p.m. by the Mayor, who will be asked to proclaim a public half holiday on the occasion.

TH, MARCH 27, 1888
NO FIREWORKS AT FAIR

The Fancy Fair in the Recreation Grounds will take place to-morrow, when two bands will be in attendance.

We have been requested to state that owing to the Committee of the Recreation Grounds Fair not being able to obtain fireworks from Luffield, as was expected, that portion of the arrangements to-morrow will have to be omitted from the programme. Fire balloons, however, will be let off during the evening.

TH, MARCH 28, 1888
FUNDRAISING

THE RECREATION GROUNDS
FANCY FAIR.
THURSDAY M.A.N.

Arrangements for the ladies who have worked so hard for months past to arrange a Fancy Fair in the Recreation Grounds, Wednesday (to-day), the appointed day, turned out on Friday cold, on top of rain that fell the night previous, that the idea of holding the fair in the open had to be abandoned. The Recreation Grounds Board and several of the ladies who have taken a most active part in getting the matter up, also the Mayor, met in the Government in the morning and decided to hold the Fair in the Alexandra Hall,

TH, APRIL 11, 1888
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

At a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board on Tuesday night the receipts and expenditures in connection with the Fancy Fair were presented, when it was seen that the net credit balance was \$21 14c. On Mr Cockill's motion, seconded by Mr Skinner, it was decided—"That the hearty thanks of the Board be tendered to all who so kindly assisted in making the recent fair such a success, and especially to the ladies, who devoted so much time and energy in the preparation of goods and refreshments for sale on that occasion. It was decided that the Chairman and Mr Skinner should confer with Mr Henderson, architect, re the completion of the rotunda in the grounds, and to take such steps as to the expenditure of the proceeds as they might deem fit. On Mr Hughes' motion a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr Harris Ford, the hon. sec. of the Board, for the way in which he worked in connection with the Fancy Fair. It was also decided to write to the Hillis Band, asking them to give a promenade concert in the grounds on the afternoon of Queen's Birthday. The other business was merely formal, Mr J. B. Roy being appointed overseer for the month.

TH, JULY 4, 1888
TREE PLANTING

The Recreation Board are at present sowing a considerable number of trees in the grounds. The trees are all new to this place, being the product of American seeds forwarded by the Government to the Board some three years ago.

TH, AUGUST 2, 1888
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met in Messrs Skinner & Sole's office on Wednesday night, when those were present Messrs J. T. Davis (Chairman), T. K. Skinner, Harris Ford, and Dr. Gibbs. The plans of the proposed band stand and price from Okey & Asher for erection of same were placed before the meeting. Plan No. 1, which would cost £199 completed, which had been drawn by Mr D. Berry and detailed in drawing by Mr Henderson, was approved of. It was resolved "That as the cost of the rotunda would be far beyond the present means of Board, and as the plans will not admit of a portion being erected, the Board decide that the erection of the same shall be deferred, until funds are available for its completion, and the funds at present in hand shall be placed at interest." The Secretary was instructed to send to Mr Henderson the best thanks of the Board for the trouble and time he has devoted in preparing the details and drawing for the band rotunda. Mr Cockill was appointed overseer for the month; and the Board adjourned.

instead of in the grounds. This course was proposed for the reason that it was too cold and wet to hold it in the open air to-day, and if it was postponed till to-morrow, which might happen to be such another day as this, then they could not get the Hall, as it was engaged for Thursday night. As soon as this alteration was definitely fixed, notices were put on to clear the seats out of the Hall, and as the delay would have to be made up somehow, it was resolved to fix the hour of opening at 8 o'clock in the afternoon, instead of at 5 p.m. had it been in the grounds. All the morning and at midday the ladies interested, assisted by several gentlemen, were arranging the stalls—five or six—in the main hall, and on the stage a Christmas tree. In the side-room and gallery guests will be held, while the best part of the stage will be occupied by the Hillis Band, who will march out this evening before the Fair, and then play a number of pieces in the Hall. For some reason not explained at present the Street Band had the other day decided not to play at the Fair, but what was their exact reason could not be found out. In consequence of this they will not be at the Hall to-night. As regards the Ladies' Sewing Societies, who have worked so assiduously for months past in the Central Chamber, assisted, however, by a number of others, it has been deemed advisable not to publish the names of any in this proceeding week, as the members of the Committee have kept an record of all those who have helped, and hence they cannot furnish a complete list.

TH, MARCH 29, 1888
FANCY FAIR WRITE-UP

THE STALLS.

The wisdom of the management in having the Fair in the Alexandra Hall instead of the Recreation Grounds, was never more noticeable than in the evening, when the intensely cold wind blowing would have effectually put a damper on the proceedings had they not been in a building. As it was the hall was crowded all the evening, and society seemed to pass hands pretty freely at the stalls and at the games that were being carried on.

THE STALLS

were four in number, three with goods and knick-knacks, and the fourth with refreshments; and a Christmas tree, and a small stall on the stage. The last-named occupied one side of the building, while opposite were two of the goods stalls. In the centre, below the stage, was the large goods stall, presided over by the Mayor's wife, who was dressed in 17th century costume, and Miss G. Rowan, who was in evening dress. These ladies were assisted by Misses E. Bayly, Elizabethan style costume; D. M. Bayly, fancy costume of 18th century; H. Bayly, Kate Greenway girl; and Miss Gifford, 17th century costume. Perhaps the most striking features on this stall were a large wax doll in bridal array, and a miniature bedstead, made and presented by Mr Cook, with the bedding and doll's clothes made by Mrs Fitzbald and daughter. The other articles were numerous and varied, and met with ready sale. Next to this stall was what might be termed No. 1 stall, presided over by Miss Carter, who was in evening dress, assisted by Misses Okey, Red Cross Nurse; A. Jackson, Okey Queen; E. Yates, evening dress. Here a very noticeable feature on the table was a wedding cake presented by Mr W. Black, and a pretty table top made of immortelle donated by Mr Skelton. The articles on this stall went very rapidly.

No. 2 stall was in charge of Mrs Harris Ford, assisted by Misses Sole, Nurse-Girl, and E. Hooper, Colleen Bawn. A wax harp in a glass case, donated by Mrs Handy, was the centre piece of the stall, and was very attractive and noticeable. The articles on this table disappeared very rapidly.

The Christmas Tree and the small stall was in charge of Miss M. Jackson, Baker Hill, assisted by Misses L. Ford, Writing Maid; A. Ford, French Painter; E. Collins, Good Luck; G. Merton, Slave; — Ellis, Jack Tar; D. Sole, Fisher Girl; and Wright (S), evening dress. Much business was done at the tree by the young ladies, most of whom purchased very actively.

Last, but not least of all, was the refreshment stall, presided over by Henderson R. Cook and A. Goldwater, both of whom were appropriately dressed, assisted by Misses Taylor (S), and A. Collins, Master Barley Cook, and Mr J. Black. There were no fancy costumes at this stall, but all the lady attendants were dressed in very neat costumes. Great credit is due to the tea ladies who presided at this stall, and they showed considerable energy in the way they managed things, having prepared everything themselves that was displayed on the table—that is to say, that what they did not purchase directly themselves was obtained by their former friends in a cottage. There, as elsewhere, many seemed to take shining heads; and on the conclusion of the Fair the dances in the side room, were regular here.

With regard to the management of the stalls, some praise is due to Mrs Humphreys, sec., for this, and credit is also due to Mr J. Skinner, for the active part he took in the Fair as an outsider.

In the gallery Mr. H. Gilmore ran a Punch and Judy show, assisted by a great number of juveniles during the afternoon, and raised in a fair amount of gain.

The side room during the early part of the evening was where the shooting portion of the community assembled, as there were two shooting ranges—one for an air gun, run by Messrs T. Hall and B. Murray, the other a rifle range, run by Sergeant Oatley and Mr. F. Jackson—was head up and did a great amount of business.

The attendance was very great between the hours of 7 and 8 o'clock; in fact, between the former hour and 8 o'clock the doorkeepers could not take the money fast enough.

On the stage during the evening, and in the side room during the dance the Hillis Band entertained the proceedings by some very sparkling music, for which they were cheerfully applauded.

The Fair was practically over by 11 o'clock, by which time Mr. S. Shaw had finished the section of the remnants of the goods on the stalls, but in the side room the dances kept up the gaiety until some time afterwards.

Besides those already mentioned, the members of the Recreation Grounds Board, Messrs J. T. Davis, F. P. Cockill, H. G. Hughes, T. K. Skinner, and Dr. Gibbs were very noticeable in their exertions to achieve success for the Fair, while the hon. secretary, Mr Harris Ford, worked most energetically, and too much praise cannot be bestowed on him for the manner in which he worked before and at the Fair.

The Fair cannot be pronounced anything but a success, as will be seen by the appended list of receipts.

The total proceeds from the fair are £24 15 0d, made up as follows—Dance, £24 15; Mrs Cattle's stall, £23 18; Mrs Bayly's stall, £12 10 6d; Henderson's stall water and Cook—refreshments, £10 7s 10; Mrs Ford's stall, £8 1s 2d; Shooting Galleries, £4 1s 6d; Punch and Judy Show 49

1889

At the beginning of the Year Dr. Gibbes resigned from the Recreation Ground Board as he was leaving the district, he had been a very active member of the community. He was replaced by Richard Cock, a well-known businessman in town.

During the year, a few gifts of birds were received, the most notable of which was a pair of black swans from the premier Harry Atkinson. Also gifted were pea hens, a peacock, and a mollymawk. A sort of aviary was built near the bathing shed to house some of the birds.

The major news of this year was the formation of a Sports Ground Committee set up to fill-in the swamp by the Liardet Street entrance so it could be used for sporting events. Previous attempts to fill-in the swamp had mixed results and often fell short due to lack of funds. The committee to develop the grounds was given a seven-year lease at a rent of £1 per annum and allowed to use the area up to twelve times a year for fundraising, on the proviso that all funds raised would go into the development of the grounds.

The design of the Sports Ground was drawn up by surveyor T. K. Skinner who was a Trustee of the Recreation Ground. Any changes to the Sports Ground area had to have approval of the Recreation Ground Board. Skinner also agreed to supervise the work.

Clearing the swamp of trees, etc. started in December.

Summary of significant events

- Dr. Gibbes resigns, Richard Cock name submitted as his replacement.
- Mr Richard Cock joins Board of Trustees.
- Sports Ground committee formed with the aim of developing the swamp over a seven year period.
- T. K. Skinner produces plans for new sports ground.
- The clearing of the swamp under way in preparation for earthworks in the new year.

TH, JANUARY 21, 1889
OFFER OF SWANS

Mr J. G. Davies received a telegram from the Premier, Sir E. Atkinson, wanting to know if he would accept for the Recreation Grounds a pair of black swans. Mr Davies replied in the affirmative.

TH, JANUARY 26, 1889
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The annual meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday night.

Present: Messrs J. T. Davis (Chairman), F. P. Corkill, T. K. Skinner, J. B. Roy, and Harris Ford. The balance sheet, showed the receipts to be £2 5s over the expenditure for the year. The accounts as read were passed. Mr R. Cock's name is to be submitted to the Government for appointment to the board in place of Dr. Gibbes, who has left the district. Some minor business was transacted, and the board

TH, JANUARY 26, 1889
SWANS RELEASED INTO LAKE

The Harry Atkinson on Friday evening brought with him from Wellington a pair of black swans, which he has kindly presented to the Trustees of the Recreation Grounds. The birds were deposited this (Saturday) evening, and at some early hour were set free on the lake. We have been requested to state that it is the intention of the Trustees to strictly enforce the by-laws relating to dogs, and that in future any found in the grounds will be shot and their owners prosecuted.

TH, FEBRUARY 18, 1889
TWO PEAHENS GIFTED

The Recreation Grounds Board begs to acknowledge receipt of two peahens from Mr W. Wright. The Board intend having a part of aviary built near the bathing shed, in which to put the birds.

TH, FEBRUARY 25, 1889
PEAHENS GO MISSING

The two peahens that the Recreation Grounds Board received from Mr W. Wright were unfortunately lost on Saturday night. It seems the birds were put in a wired-in enclosure in the Grounds a few days previously, but on Saturday they were missing, there being every appearance of the wire netting being tampered with.

TH, FEBRUARY 25, 1889
ANOTHER BLACK SWAN GIFTED

On Saturday last a black swan, received from Mr James H. Morgan, of Lakeside, Wanganui, was liberated in the Recreation Grounds pond. The bird, which is called Moses, is very tame—in fact, so tame that it will sit out of a person's hand.

TH, FEBRUARY 25, 1889
NUISANCE UNDER THE TREES

The custodian of the Recreation Grounds has been on the alert lately to catch persons who have been creating nuisances under the trees. On Saturday morning the custodian went before daybreak and climbed a tree trunk which these nuisances had been committing and waited for crabs. Two boys some time afterwards came into the grounds, and after having a swim, the custodian caught them committing the offence. On Sunday morning he caught two more. It is about time that something was done in this matter, for the nuisance under the trees on each side of the pond has been an intolerable one for months past. The custodian has placed the matter in the hands of the police.

TH, MARCH 9, 1889
PEACOCK DONATED

Mr W. Hester, of Kaiti Road, has presented a peacock to the Recreation Grounds Board. This bird will be placed along with the peacocks in the wired enclosure near the bathing shed. It will be remembered that the peacocks a few days ago escaped from their place of confinement and their whereabouts could not be found till the other day, when they were captured on Mr Cliff's place, near Upjohn's bridge, on the Junction Road.

TH, JUNE 15, 1889
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Thursday night, in Mr T. K. Skinner's office. Present: Messrs J. T. Davis (Chairman), H. C. Hughes, H. B. Roy, T. K. Skinner, F. P. Corkill, and Harris Ford (hon. sec.).

The Proposed Alder's Hall.—The question of holding a citizens' hall in aid of the Grounds was discussed, but the idea was abandoned as impracticable for certain reasons.

Vacant Seat.—Dr. Gibbes' seat was declared vacant, and Mr R. Cock's name is to be submitted to Government to fill the vacancy.

Regarding Fence.—In consequence of the bad state of the fence in Cunningham Road, the Secretary was instructed to see to the matter.

Plates on Bridge.—Mr Connor informed the meeting that Mr S. King would donate £25 to buy plates to replace the plates that were taken off the "Post's Bridge" by some persons over a year ago.—The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Crawford, engineer, of Auckland, who cut the old plates, as to whether he had the patterns by him, and what it would cost to cast new plates.

Raising Funds.—The question of raising funds otherwise than by a ball was discussed, and it was decided to arrange a concert, if possible.

Question of Encroachment.—A special meeting will be held shortly to consider the question of the alleged encroachment of the south end of the Grounds on the property of Mr S. King.

This was all the business.

TH, JUNE 20, 1889
BOUNDARY ISSUE WITH
BROOKLANDS

Messrs H. C. Hughes, J. T. Davis, T. K. Skinner, and Harris Ford, members of the Recreation Grounds Board, paid a visit to the grounds on Wednesday afternoon to have a personal inspection of the stated encroachment of their land on Mr S. King's, and on a "paper" read called the Holdsworth Road. The members held a meeting afterwards, when they passed the following resolution:— "That the Board consent to Mr S. King's proposal to have opened that part of the Holdsworth Road between the Grounds and the Brooklands property, provided that he erects the dividing fence at his own expense and places an ornamental gate on the Jones Road and a turnstile on the boundary of the Grounds."

TH, JULY 10, 1889
MR R. COCK APPOINTED TO BOARD

Mr R. Cock has been appointed by the Governor a member of the Recreation Grounds Board.

TH, JULY 15, 1889
VISIT BY GENERAL STRANGE

General Strange left for Auckland by the Penguin on Sunday morning. While here the General was shown round the town by Colonel Stapp, and among the places visited was the Recreation Grounds. Here the General met with a slight accident. It seems he was walking across the platform that spans an outlet of the pond near the bathing shed, when a rotten plank gave way, and one of his legs slipped through. He escaped unhurt, which fact he remarked was rather fortunate, as he had had the same leg broken twice. The ancient cannon that stands in the grounds, and which is known as "Dinky Barrett," was viewed with a great deal of interest by the General, who expressed an opinion that it was fully 200 years old, and was extremely valuable as a curiosity. The manery was also visited; and the General also went to St. Mary's Churchyard to see the last resting place of his cousin, Captain Scourge.

TH, JULY 20, 1889
FUNDRAISING

ENTERTAINMENT
IN AID OF
RECREATION GROUND
BAND ROTUNDA.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

A MISCELLANEOUS CONCERT and Entertainment will be given in the Alexandra Hall on

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13.

The proceeds to go towards the completion of the Band Rotunda in the Recreation Ground.

Further particulars in future advertisements.

TH, AUGUST 12, 1889
CLAFFEY HELPING WITH
FUNDRAISING

A small cart, in the shafts of which a small donkey was harnessed, was quite a curiosity in town to-day (Monday). Mr Claffey was the driver of this novel transport.

Mr Claffey, the custodian of the Recreation Grounds, is busily engaged in decorating the stage of the Alexandra Hall with ferns, maps, etc., for the tribune that will be given at the concert in aid of the funds for expenditure in the grounds. Mr J. Pugh has kindly lent the piano that will be used at the concert.

TH, AUGUST 27, 1889
LAND ISSUE ON SOUTHERN
BOUNDARY

Hollisworthy Road.—Mr R. C. Hughes, solicitor, on behalf of the Recreation Grounds Board, applied to the Board to declare open as a public road as much of the Hollisworthy Road as lies between Jones Road and a point 75 chains eastward of the intersection of the Jones and Hollisworthy Road, as shown on the plan (enclosed), and that two rods and six poles of Hollisworthy Road, lying immediately eastward of the south-east corner of subdivision 4 of Town Belt, and as shown on the plan (enclosed) be transferred to the Recreation Board as an addition to the Recreation Grounds Base.—it was decided.—“That the Government be recommended to reserve that portion of the Hollisworthy Road from Jones Road 550 feet eastward, closed by Fossiliferous Ordinance for a thoroughfare, and that the portion extending eastward from thence, and partly abutting on the Botanic Garden Reserve by advertisement 2 rods 6 poles, be reserved for a Botanic Garden and Recreation Ground, and vested in the Terranaki Botanic Garden Board.”

TH, SEPTEMBER 3, 1889
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A SPECIAL meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Monday night, for the purpose of considering an offer from ladies who carried out the last concert to get up another in aid of the grounds. Present: Messrs J. T. Davis

(chairman), T. K. Skinner, E. Gock, and Horrie Ford (secretary). It was decided to place the proceeds (£125) of the last concert in the Post Office Savings' Bank. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr and Mrs W. Salooer and the other ladies and gentlemen who assisted at the concert. The Board also accepted the proffered offer to get up another concert, and decided to assist them in every possible way.

The Board adjourned.

TH, OCTOBER 12, 1889
PUBLIC MEETING RE SPORTS
GROUND

PUBLIC MEETING.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held at the Borough Council Chambers THIS EVENING, at 7.30 o'clock, to consider ways and means of making the RECREATION GROUNDS suitable for Athletic Sports. All those who will take an interest in the matter are kindly invited to attend.

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TH, OCTOBER 14, 1889
SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE
FORMED

In the Borough Council chambers on Saturday night a meeting of those interested in making an athletic ground in the Recreation Grounds was held. There was a good attendance, the Mayor being voted to the chair. After discussion, a committee—composed of Messrs W. Parker, Lightfoot, R. B. Roy, F. Watson, W. H. Skinner, and A. Goldwater, with power to add to their number—was appointed to formulate a scheme to carry out the work, and report at a meeting next Saturday night. The Committee met afterwards, and added the name of the Mayor to their number. It was suggested to raise money by the issue of £1 debentures, bearing five per cent. interest. Nothing definite can be decided, however, till next Saturday night, when the committee report.

TH, OCTOBER 18, 1889
SWAN INJURED BY DOG

Owing to repeated complaints from the public of nuisance and damage done by dogs, the custodian of the Recreation Grounds has issued instructions to warn anyone found in the grounds with a dog in his following; and further has been instructed to lay poison.

The swan in the Recreation Grounds pond known as "Moss" was worried by a dog recently, and had one of his legs broken. Dr. Guth set the injured leg, and "Moss" is now doing well. In consequence of this the Board intend to be very strict with members of the canine tribe in future.

TH, OCTOBER 18, 1889
SPORTS GROUND DEVELOPMENT
AGREED

The Recreation Grounds Board and the Committee appointed by a recent meeting held about forming an athletic reserve in the grounds, held a conference on Thursday night. After discussion it was decided by the Board to grant a lease of the portion of the ground known as the swamp, or loam, to three trustees to be appointed by the meeting on Saturday night next, at the

nominal rent of 1s per year for seven years. The Board will grant the trustees permission to make a charge to that portion of the ground for lime and gesso, twelve times during the year, the whole of the revenue derived therefrom to be expended in improving that portion of the ground. It might be stated that the Committee will report to a public meeting on Saturday night next.

TH, OCTOBER 21, 1889
SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE
MEETING

ATHLETIC GROUNDS.

A WELL attended meeting of persons interested was held in the Borough Council Chambers on Saturday evening to receive the report of the Committee appointed to formulate a scheme to raise the necessary funds for making a sports ground in the Recreation Reserve.—His Worship the Mayor was in the chair.—The following report was then submitted:—"That £100 be raised by the sale of debentures at one pound each, bearing interest at 5 per cent."—On the proposition of Mr Connor the report was adopted, and a committee, consisting of Messrs W. H. Skinner, E. Dempsey, R. B. Roy, W. Bennett, A. Goldwater, F. Watson, J. M. Lightfoot, W. Parker, and E. Rosaphine, was appointed to carry out the work.—It was also decided to invest the funds in the name of three trustees, His Worship the Mayor to be appointed for the time being by the Recreation Board, and one by the meeting. Mr W. H. Skinner was selected as the representative of the meeting.

A discussion then took place on the liability of the trustees to the debenture holders. A resolution was ultimately passed in effect that receipts be given to each subscriber on the understanding that the amount be paid back with interest at 5 per cent. added, when funds were available; but no personal risk attaches to the Trustees, Committee, or Secretary.

The meeting terminated in the usual way.

TH, NOVEMBER 4, 1889
PROGRESS ON SPORTS GROUND

THE Committee appointed to carry out the work of forming the swamp in the above ground into a place suitable for holding athletic sports of every description, have been far from idle during the past fortnight. An active concern of the town has been made with the result that some £70 or £80 worth of debentures at £1 each have been taken up, and this amount is confidently expected to be brought up to the £100 required during the next few days. The other morning the Committee met Mr T. K. Skinner, the honorary engineer to the Recreation Board, on the ground itself, when that gentleman most fully and satisfactorily explained the manner in which he proposed to deal with it. Mr Skinner is to be congratulated on the effectiveness of his design which will, when completed, give New Plymouth an athletic ground worthy of the place, and one certainly second to none in the Colony for the beauty of its surroundings. It is proposed, as soon as specifications can be prepared, to call for tenders for the major portion of the work. This will, when completed, allow the committee to get up sports &c., which the public will undoubtedly patronize largely, knowing that by doing so, they will be helping forward an undertaking they have every right to call their own.

It may be mentioned that the work is to be carried on under the personal and honorary supervision of Mr Skinner, who certainly deserves the warmest thanks of the public for the way in which he has for so long allowed them to command his professional services, when any improvements to **THE Recreation Ground** have been carried out.

TH, NOVEMBER 5, 1889
MOLLY HAWK DONATED

Dr O'Carroll has presented to the Recreation Grounds a sea bird known as **the molly hawk**.

TH, DECEMBER 8, 1889
SPORTS GROUND FUNDRAISING

The Committee appointed to collect subscriptions to carry out the work of forming the swamp in the Recreation Ground into a place suitable for holding athletic sports, have met with considerable success, and the donations have been liberally taken up. Amongst the donations is a most liberal one of £10 by Major Purvis.

TH, DECEMBER 18, 1889
SWAMP CLEARING IN PROGRESS

Those who have been interesting themselves in forming an athletic ground in the Recreation Reserve have not been idle since the project was initiated. The ground is now being cleared of trees and brush preparatory to the calling for tenders for the earthwork. It is expected that tenders will be called for about the first week of the new year, according to the plans drawn out by Mr T. K. Skinner, who is taking a great interest in the work.

TH, DECEMBER 30, 1889

**NEW PLYMOUTH RECREATION
SPORTS GROUNDS.**

TENDERS FOR EARTHWORK.

TENDERS are invited up to 4 p.m. on **SATURDAY, the 19th January, 1890,** for **FILLING IN** part of the swamp in the Recreation Ground.

Plans and specifications may be seen on and after **SATURDAY, 4th January,** at **T. K. Skinner's** office, **New Plymouth,** where tenders are to be left. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

A. PARKER,

**Hon. Sec. N.P. Recreation Sports Ground
Committee.** 4228 430 j-4 7 10

1890

The Sports Ground Committee was busy filling in the swamp and making an area suitable for an athletics meeting by Easter. They knew it would not be 100% suitable for all events given the time restraints but hoped they could still have a good meet. They were praying for fine weather knowing that a soggy ground would not be good. Working bees had been organised to clear the banks for spectators as at that time the terraces did not exist. The inaugural event on April 7 1890 was run under the name of the “New Plymouth Recreation Grounds Club”. Fine weather prevailed and a crowd of around 2000 attended and the event was a success.

The ornate wrought iron main gates gifted by Mr Rhind had become unstable, the foundations were in a bad way and Mr Hughes senior had taken it upon himself to fix the gates and enhance their appearance. He had hoped to do this in time for the Easter sports day but raising money at the time was difficult. He did however get the gates completed by the end of the year.

A sad event during 1890 was the murder of Stephen Maloney, an old soldier and veteran of the 1860s conflict. Maloney lived in the Recreation Ground, in a cottage on the hill behind the south east corner of the sports ground. On the morning of his death, he had gone into town doing an errand for his neighbour Mrs Carnell, which he often did. His route took him down Horton Walk and out the Liardet Street entrance. On this day he came across Darby Claffey the caretaker and stopped for a chat. He mentioned that he had given a young Maori lad a cup of tea and the lad had said he was helping in the Recreation Grounds. Claffey told Maloney that was not the case.

Maloney went and did his errand, and on the way back he again went through the Recreation Ground and again Claffey saw him but this time they did not speak. On an evening Maloney would have his dinner at the Carnell’s house, she would summon him with a whistle. This evening there was no response, Mrs Carnell sent her son looking for Maloney, but he could not be found. The next morning a search party found Maloney’s body amongst ferns not far from his house. He had been assaulted with his own axe. A young Maori lad who was seen wearing some of Maloney’s clothes and a new pair of boots the same as ones Maloney had recently purchased was arrested.

After hearing what Claffey knew at the trial, the Crown Prosecutor said “Oh! You are a most important witness; you are the last person who saw him alive.” Claffey: “I was not!” Crown Prosecutor: “Who was then?” Claffey: “Why, the man who killed him!” Crown Prosecutor: “Oh; you are an Irishmen, I believe.” Claffey: “I am.” The cross examination finished there.

The Board now found itself in a financial position to complete the Band Rotunda and in December a tender was issued for its construction.

Summary of significant events

- George Brothers won tender for forming athletics track.
- The Board try to acquire Section 1084 via a land transfer. This is the section that the Victoria Road Gates are on. Records show the transfer did not happen until 1894.
- Mr Hughes Sen offers to fix and complete the Liardet Street entrance gates. These are the gates that still stand at the Victoria Road entrance.
- Inaugural Sports Day on new track.
- Liardet Street entrance improvements completed.
- Tender Notice issued for erection of Band Rotunda.



The Rhind Gates at the Liardet Street Entrance. Presently at the Victoria Road Entrance. They were moved in 1938 when the Sander's Gates were erected.

This photograph dated 1896 after the gates had been re-hung, organised by Robert Hughes senior.
(Puke Ariki ARC2003-859/3)

TH, JANUARY 4, 1890
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs J. T. Davis (chairman), R. Cook, T. K. Skinner, and Harris Ford.

Trustees.—It was decided that the Chair man should be the Board's trustee on the Committee who will manage the athletic ground.

Athletic Ground.—Plans of the proposed work, as prepared by Mr Skinner, for the replacement of the swamp and improvements for an athletic ground, were approved of.

A Complaint.—Mr R. B. Roy wrote complaining of certain dogs being allowed to go into the grounds, to the danger of the swans in the pond.—The Chairman said he had attended to the matter.

Officers.—Mr J. B. Roy was appointed secretary for the month.

The Board adjourned.

TH, JANUARY 4, 1890
SPORTS GROUND UPDATE

The athletic ground in the Recreation reserve will be finished about the end of March, and it is proposed by the committee to hold an inaugural athletic meeting on it in Easter time.

TH, JANUARY 28, 1890
AQUATIC SPORTS MEETING

AQUATIC SPORTS IN RECREATION
GROUND.

A NUMBER of those interested in holding aquatic sports in the Recreation Grounds pond on Wednesday next (Jubilee Day), was held in the Council Chambers on Monday night. The object is to raise funds to improve the grounds. Those were present Messrs R. C. Haglan, R. Cook, R. Humphries, R. Gilman, Wainhouse, W. Gilman, and others. Mr Humphries was voted to the chair. It was decided to hold the sports on Wednesday, and to draw up a programme for the same. Mr Haglan was appointed hon. secretary. A committee consisting of Messrs H. Atkinson, R. Humphries, R. Gilman, Wainhouse, R. G. Hancock, J. Wilson, R. Hanson, W. Gilman and the members of the Recreation Grounds Board, with power to add to their number. Mr Haglan was also appointed treasurer. It was decided that the committee should draw out a programme after the meeting; and it was further decided to start the sports at 8 o'clock. The admission was fixed at 1s, children under 14 half-price. It was also decided to ask the Garrison Rifles Band to give their aid. A programme which appears elsewhere was then drawn up.

The meeting separated.

TH, JANUARY 28, 1890
WATER LILIES IN LOWER POND

One of the most strived sights in the Recreation Grounds now is the profusion of beautiful water lilies that grace the lower pond. These were planted some two or three years ago by Mr Mitchinson, who thus added a most delightful feature to the pond. The upper pond has also several specimens of the plant floating on its waters, although these are not near so luxuriant and plentiful as those in the lower pond.

TH, JANUARY 30, 1890
JUBILEE AQUATIC SPORTS RESULTS

NEW ZEALAND'S
JUBILEE.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN
TARANAKI.

The Jubilee Anniversary of the Colony was celebrated in New Plymouth by the day being observed as a close holiday. The public offices, the banks, and all the shops were closed all day, and the weather being exquisite, several picnic parties were formed, which were thoroughly enjoyed by those who took part in them.

AQUATIC SPORTS IN RECREATION
GROUND.

Committee: Messrs H. Humphries, R. G. Hancock, R. Gilman, R. Hanson, R. Cook, J. B. Roy, H. Atkinson, Wainhouse, John Wilson, W. Gilman, J. T. Davis, T. K. Skinner, H. Ford, F. P. Currah. Justice: Mr R. G. Hancock. Starter: Mr R. Humphries. Handicapper: Committee.

The aquatic sports in the Recreation Grounds were not so well attended as they would have been had a larger notice been given. Considering, however, that the sports were only decided on last Monday, and the programme drawn up the same night, the attendance must have been pretty well up to expectations. About 250 persons were in the grounds, and as the weather was extremely fine, a pleasant afternoon was spent by all. The Committee worked well in arranging and carrying out the programme, and Messrs De Roy and Hanson also gave considerable help in many matters. The Rifles Band, under Bandmaster Barry, played an excellent programme, which must have proved very enjoyable to the spectators between the races. A pleasure boat on the pond was fairly well patronised by the children. Mr H. Jahan had a refreshment booth on the ground. A "Jubilee-singing" machine, lent by Mr Hattersworth, was on the ground, but did not do much business, no doubt appearing to have plenty of work. Mr Wainhouse very generously provided an evening for the Band, and considering the heat of the day this act must have been appreciated by the bandmen. The programme of events is appended.

Half-mile Boat, under 12: distance, 50 yards. 1st prize 1s, 2nd 2d, 3rd 3d; entrance free.—Only two competitors entered for this event, namely, K. Walker and J. Webber, the former, who won the latter five yards, winning satisfactorily.

Half-mile, distance, 100 yards. 1st prize 1s, 2nd 1s, 3rd 1s; entrance 1s.—G. Birch, H. George, A. Webber, F. Scrimmer, and F. Hines started. Birch won rather easily, with George a fair second, and Webber a

good third. F. Hines was completely outwinded, and finished an absolute last.

Long Dive, from 15c entrance 1s.—R. C. Haglan, W. Trebley, and H. George entered for this event, which was won by the first named, who dived 40 yards. Trebley and George, who had 10c yards each from the winner, dived 30 and 21 yards respectively, including handspans.

Half-mile Towing, between 12 and 18; distance 100 yards. 1st prize 1s, second 1s; entrance 1s.—W. Birch, A. Webber, and F. Hines were the only competitors, Birch winning easily, and Webber coming second, after a big fight with Hinesman.

Half-mile Handicap. 1st prize 10s, 2nd 10s; entrance 1s.—H. George (10yds) was first; B. Hanson (25yds) second; and R. C. Haglan (30yds) was third. J. Wilson, the only other starter, dropped out of the race. The race was a procession, although Mr Haglan made up the big handicap by his covering considerably.

Obstacle Race. Prize 10s; entrance 1s.—Five competitors entered for this, and after some fun, from the spectators' standpoint, F. Birch was declared the winner.

The Ten Race signed for next of course.

This concluded the programme.

TH, JANUARY 30, 1890
TAKINGS FROM AQUATIC SPORTS

The receipts from the aquatic sports on Wednesday will have a small surplus, after expenses are met, which will be spent in clearing the fern off the hills overlooking the athletic ground that is now being formed.

TH, FEBRUARY 4, 1890

FIRE IN RECREATION GROUND.

The fire-bells rang out an alarm of fire at half-past 7 o'clock on Monday night, the scene of the conflagration being in the Recreation Grounds on the slope between the strawberry beds and Mr Cornell's house at the meadows entrance to the grounds. The slope was covered in pine logs, and the dried fallen leaves from these proved very inflammable, and carried the fire along at a great rate to the imminent danger of Mr Cornell's house, from which most of the furniture was removed. The strong south-east wind blowing carried the fire along at an alarming rate, and it appeared at one time that the flames would be taken right through the grounds. A large crowd of persons assembled at the scene, and a couple of scores of the local Volunteers, aided by the Fire Brigade, beat out the flames with good success. It seemed doubtful for some time whether the house could be saved, but after half an hour's hard work they were got sufficiently under way to allow all alarm. By half-past 8 o'clock all danger was over, but to prevent any further outbreak of the same kind the Recreation Grounds Board placed three men on as a night watch. The greatest credit is due to the Volunteers and the Fire Brigade (under Captain Maher), and the others who worked so well in beating out the flames. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is supposed to have been caused by sparks from a bush fire. The damage done in the grounds is not very considerable, and is confined to the burning of the pine logs and trees that grow on the slope through which the fire ran.

TH, FEBRUARY 8, 1890
BOARD TRYING TO GET SECTION
1084

A Motion.—The Board recommended the Governor that town sections 1083 and 1018 be given to Mr W. Dingle in exchange for town sec 1084, and that the latter not be granted to the Recreation Board in accordance with an agreement in 1883. Mr R. C. Haglan wrote on this subject. This section gives entrance to the grounds from the Carrington Road.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1890
FENNEL IN THE GROUNDS

At the Borough Council meeting on Monday night Mr Small rated the Recreation Grounds Board for growing half an acre of fennel in their reserve, which, he added, had been all propagated from one little fennel plant that he observed there seven years ago. Oh! Mr Small; why did you not stoop and pull up that one plant?

TH, FEBRUARY 17, 1890
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday night. Present: Messrs J. T. Davis (chairman), J. B. Ray, R. Cook, T. K. Skinner, R. C. Hughes, and Harris Ford (hon. sec.)

A Claim.—Mr Carnall wrote claiming £1 from the Board for alleged damage to the cover of his well on the corner of the road at the grounds.—The Board decided not to entertain the account, disclaiming any liability in the matter.

Playing Licenses.—The Board decided to issue playing licenses for three months at 2s 6d each.

Street Closures.—Mr Osbrell, Secretary of the Rifle Band, wrote asking for permission to hold a concert in the grounds on the night of Friday, the 1st.—The request was acceded to, but the Board were to be specially requested to take every precaution in case of letting off fireworks.

Balance Sheet.—The annual balance-sheet, which showed a credit of £12, was adopted.

Agaric Sports on Jubilee Day handed over £2 10s, net proceeds from the sports.—The Board passed a vote of thanks to the Committee.—It was further resolved to spend this money in painting the "Foot's bridge."

Wastes.—The Committee informed the Board that several ladies had decided to hold a bazaar in aid of the grounds on the 26th November.—The Board thankfully accepted the offer, and decided to offer every assistance.

Collection.—The offer of Mr H. Hughes, sen., to collect subscriptions to complete the new gates at the Lizard-street entrance was accepted with thanks.

Committee.—Mr Skinner was appointed chairman for the meeting month.

The Board adjourned.

TH, FEBRUARY 19, 1890
IMPROVEMENTS TO MAIN GATES

Mr R. C. Hughes writes as follows in regard to the entrance gates to the Botanic Gardens:—From a report of the proceedings of the Recreation Board it will be seen that Mr R. Hughes, sen., has offered to try to raise the funds necessary to complete the gates at the Lizard-street entrance, and that the Board has accepted his offer. Everyone will have noticed a pair of iron gates (the gift of Mr Birch), which have been left in an incomplete condition and unused for several years past. Owing to a subsidence in the ground it will be necessary to take up the massive iron posts and lay a concrete foundation the whole width of the entrance. To give a finish to the gates iron wings, terminating in concrete pillars, are to be built on each side, and then a smaller wicket for passenger traffic is to be built on the west side. This work, it is estimated, will cost about £15, and it is to be hoped that the owners of the ground—the public—will subscribe the amount necessary to have this work completed by Easter Monday—the day fixed for opening the athletic ground.

TH, FEBRUARY 26, 1890
GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

The work recently done in the Recreation Ground is widening and clearing paths, but more particularly in the trimming of the lower branches of the trees on the grassy slopes standing on the pathways, between the building fence and the Lizard-street entrance, is a very noticeable improvement. Wherever these lower limbs have been cut away, and the ferns cleared and the grass mown, the grounds present the appearance of a well kept English park, with invitingly open promiscuous spaces or resting places on the sward beneath the shade of nicely variegated foliage, yet between the trunks of the trees affording tolerably wide range of view and what may aptly be termed "eyeful glades." At present these improvements are but begun, but the additional views already given to the grounds in this direction will no doubt stimulate the outpouring of cash donations.

TH, MARCH 1, 1890
MAIN GATE IMPROVEMENTS
UPDATE

The plans for the new gates at the Lizard-street entrance to the Recreation Grounds have been prepared by Mr Moffin, and according to them the work will be a very handsome one when finished. Mr R. Hughes, sen., is now collecting subscriptions for the work, and everyone who can get sufficient funds in hand, the gates will be proceeded with.

TH, MARCH 3, 1890
INAUGURAL SPORTS MEETING

NEW PLYMOUTH RECREATION
GROUND ATHLETIC CLUB
SPORTS.

OPENING MEETING.

To be held on the New Ground (Under Track) on

E A S T E R M O N D A Y,
 7th April, 1890.

Proceeds to be devoted to further improvements.

STEWARDS: Messrs J. T. Davis, R. C. Huxtable, R. B. Ray, H. Ainsworth, E. Huxtable, W. H. Skinner, J. M. Lightfoot, J. F. Stalk, H. Dempsey, W. Bennett, A. Goldwater, T. Hampton, F. Wainor, H. Kieff, T. Furlong, jun. **Judges:** Messrs. Huxtable and Davis. **Scraper:** Mr E. Humphries. **Handicapper:** Mr H. Holt. **Timekeeper:** Mr Stoker. **Secretary and Treasurer:** Mr W. Parker.

PROGRAMME.

1. Maiden Race, 100 yards (open to all who have never won an advertised race)—1st prize £1 10s, 2nd 5s; post entry, 1s.
2. Boy's High Jump, handicap—1st prize, £1; nomination 1s, acceptance 6d.
3. Boy's Race (under 17), 200 yards—1st prize £1, 2nd 5s; post entry, 1s.
4. Recreation Handicap, 400 yards—1st prize £2, 2nd £1, 3rd 10s; nomination 1s, acceptance 6d.

5. Boy, Step, and Jump, handicap—1st prize £1; nomination 1s, acceptance 6d.
6. Bicycle Handicap, 1 mile—1st prize £2, 2nd £1; nomination —, acceptance —.
7. Recreation Handicap, half-mile—1st prize £2, 2nd £1, 3rd 10s; nomination 1s, acceptance 6d.
8. Vaulting With Pole, handicap—1st prize £1; nomination 1s, acceptance 6d.
9. Recreation Handicap, 100 yards—1st prize £2, 2nd £1, 3rd 10s; nomination 1s, acceptance 6d.
10. Pick-a-Rant Race, 100 yards—1st prize £1; post entry, 1s; no weight under 4st.
11. Hurdle Race, handicap, 120 yards, over 10 hurdles about 5ft 6in high—1st prize £2, 2nd £1; nomination 1s, acceptance 6d.
12. Hurdle Race (boys under 17), 120 yards, over 10 hurdles about 3ft high—1st prize £1, 2nd 5s; post entry, 1s.
13. Bicycle Handicap, 4 miles—1st prize £2, 2nd £1; nomination —, acceptance —.
14. Obstacle Race—1st prize £2, 2nd 10s, 3rd 5s; post entry, 2s.
15. Ladies' Bracelet, 500 yards, handicap—1st prize bracelet valued at £3, 2nd bracelet valued at £1, 3rd 10s; nomination 1s, acceptance 6d.
16. Tag-of-War—Prize 2s.
17. Commemorative Handicap, 120 yards—1st prize £1 10s, 2nd 10s; nomination 1s, acceptance 6d.

Grand Bicycle Procession at 11 a.m. sharp.

First race to start at 11.15 a.m.

A gold medal, value 25 will be given for the highest aggregate in Nos 4, 7, 8, 11, and 15; places to count 3, 2, and 1 points.

The meeting will be conducted under the rules of the Wanganui Athletic Society (as far as practicable).

Nominations for all handicap events to be in the hands of the Secretary by 9 p.m. on MONDAY, 24th March, 1890, accompanied up the necessary amount in cash, and also all performances for the previous six years; if subscribers have not run during that time, the last three performances to be given.

Handicaps will be declared on Saturday, 19th March.

Acceptances on the ground 15 minutes before starting.

Competitors to wear proper athletic costumes.

The decisions of the Judges in all cases to be final.

Competitors in No. 15 (Ladies' Bracelet) to be nominated by ladies.

Winners will have the option of taking medals or cash.

In the event of the weather being unfavorable, the management reserves the right to postpone the sports till a future date.

The Tarariki Rifle Band will play selections during the day.

Admission to grounds, 1s; children under 12, half price.

Racing on the Lake and other amusements.

Three competitors to meet at no second size; four or no third prize.

W. PARKER.

120 yards 5. Has Sec. and Treasurer.

TH, MARCH 7, 1890
GATE IMPROVEMENTS ON HOLD

Mr Robert Hagdon, master, writes to say that owing to the numerous claims upon the liberality of the public, especially the appeal for help from the book authors who have been burnt out, he has resolved to postpone for a couple of months his canvass for subscriptions for completing the entrance gates to the Recreation Grounds. The amount subscribed is £2 18s 4d, of which the amount received is £4 4s 4d in five. Back to the work of a trust account.

TH, MARCH 19, 1890
SPORTS GROUND UPDATE

The athletic ground in the Recreation Reserve is being rapidly put into shape at the hands of the contractors. Several of those interested in the ground have decided to spend a little gratuitous labor, and on Thursday afternoon next a working bee will be formed to clear the hills that overlook the ground of fern.

TH, MARCH 24, 1890
SPORTS GROUND WORKING BEE

We are informed that some ladies who were present last Thursday at the bee in the Recreation Grounds became so interested in the work that was going on that they kindly offered to attend the working bee next Thursday, and dispense afternoon tea. This should secure a large company of workers. Elmer Hensley is now close at hand, and a special effort should be made to clear the hills around the track of fern, muscus, and rough undergrowth. Those intending to assist should arm themselves with an axe or a long-handled bill hook, or a hay fork. Some implements will be provided in the ground.

TH, APRIL 5, 1890
LIFEBOAT FOR SPORTS DAY

The children have a great treat in store for them on Monday next at the Recreation Grounds Sports. The Committee have been so successful in bringing the lifeboat of the Harrow—kindly lent by Mr F. F. Corbridge—from the headmaster and placing her on the "big" pond, where she will ply for him under the charge of two members of the late Lighter Company, who have generously given their services for the day. Ex-parents need have no fear in trusting their children under the care of two such experienced boatmen as Messrs Joseph and Brodman.—The charge will be very small, as we hope to see the venture well patronized.

TH, APRIL 5, 1890
SPORTS DAY UPDATE

The preliminary sports on the new track in the Recreation Grounds, which came off on Easter Monday, promise to be so successful as to place the most sanguine members of the Athletic Club. The only thing that will mar the sports will be wet weather, which, it is hoped, will not be experienced. During the last few days considerable work has been done by volunteer workers in and about the track, and the contractors have also been putting more than ordinary vigor into their work

in order to get the ground in the best condition for Monday. The ground will not be completed for three sports in the strict sense of the word, but, provided wet weather is not experienced it will be in a good state for meeting on. The programme that has been provided for the day, including landing on the lake, games, etc., is a splendid one, and should afford a considerable amount of pleasure to those who attend the sports. The Harrow Team will be in attendance during the day.

THURSDAY EVENING
(18th November.)

The landowner (Mr George Bode) has declared handicaps for eleven events in the programme.

In the Boys' 100 Yards Harrow race are 24 entries, most of whom pay to the local track. For this I think Toller, at 100 yards, looks best, with Bennett (2nd) and Pearson (10yds behind) to fill the other places respectively.

The Cox's 1000 Yards has also been entered, and this should prove a very interesting race between Bennett (15 yds) and Pearson (only) for first place, with A. Kivell (10yds) third.

For the Boys' 200 Yards Harrow 20 have entered. The places ought to be filled by H. Dwyer (2nd), F. Moore, and H. Bennett respectively.

In the Boys' 500 Yards Harrow Harrow eleven have entered, and this event should also be secured by H. Dwyer (2nd), with F. Webster second, and E. Spence third.

The Boys' 1000 Yards has only brought out three competitors, and this should go to H. Bennett (2nd), F. Moore (second) and Moffatt (10yds) in the other competitors.

The Harrow 1000 Yards should go to F. Watson (second) or H. Tate (10 yds).

The Harrow 500, and 1000 Yards will naturally be won by W. Dwyer (second) or H. Dwyer (10 yds).

There are 27 entries for the 100 Yards Harrow, and of the whole lot I like F. A. Bishop's show, at 1 yard handicap, with W. Dwyer (1 yd) second, and F. Watson (second) third.

For the Harrow 500 Yards 20 have entered, H. Tate (8 yds) would win this, with Watson (second) second, and J. Bennett (10 yds) third.

There are 25 competitors for the Harrow 1000 Yards, 200 yards. This ought to be won by F. Watson (second), or F. A. Bishop (8 yds), with Tate to fill the other place.

For the Harrow 1000 Yards, 100 yards there are 15 competitors. Watson (second) should be the third best, with Pearson (1 yds), and Tate (2 yds) to fill the other places.

A golf match, valued at £5, will be given for the highest aggregate in the 4th half-mile, 100 yds, 150 yds Harrow, and Ladies' Harrow, the places to cost 2, 2 and 1 points.

In addition to the above events there is a Maiden Race (150 yards), Polo-hand Race (100 yds), Tag of War, and Games Races (100 yds), besides other events as coming under the head of racing.

TH, APRIL 8, 1890
INAUGURAL SPORTS DAY RESULTS

The first of what is hoped will be annual sports was held under the auspices of the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds Club on Monday, when there was a large concourse of people (nearly 7,000) to witness the various events, which appeared to be fully run on the merits of each competitor. One special feature of the day's proceedings was the unity with which everyone worked. The Committee were most successful in trying to make everything a success, which most unobtrusively was so, as the results prove. Messrs J. V. Davis and H. G. Easthope as judges gave every satisfaction, their decisions being not once disputed. Mr W. Parker (Gen. secretary) worked vigorously during the whole proceedings. Mr K. Harphous, as starter, got his kinks very to good starts. Mr J. Kivell and Mr W. Perry worked the "bird on the wing" during the day and helped to swell the receipts, Messrs

Webb and Roberts had a light on the ground and did fairly well during the day. Messrs Joseph and Brodman found some amusement for the young folk by moving them on the lake. The Harrow Band, under Bandmaster Perry, played the following select programme during the day: March, "King"; fantasia, "Harry Maccanta"; waltz, "Harriet and Harriet"; waltz, "Pony"; selection, "Lacrotia Borgia"; march, "Rough and Ready"; selection, "H. Traverser"; waltz, "Bessie Hagdon"; grand selection, "Edward"; quadrille, "Cicopetra"; march, "Black Prince."

The details are appended:—
Maiden Race, 150yds (open to all who have never won an athletic race), 1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd do.—H. Dwyer, 1; James E. Tate, 17 3-4th min.

Harrow High Jump, 1st prize, £1.—H. Tate, 1st 2nd, 1; H. Dwyer, 50, 2; MacCockroy, 46 1/2 min.

Boys' Race (under 17), 100yds, handicap 1st prize, £1; 2nd, do.—E. Spence, 2yds, 1; D. Bennett, 1st, 2; F. Moore, 4yds, 1. Time, 25 3-4th min.

Boys' 1000 Yards, 440yds, 1st prize, £1; 2nd, £1; 3rd, 10s.—Toller, 10yds, 1; Lila, 10yds, 2; J. Moore, 10yds, 3. Time, 26 2-4th min.

Boys' 500 and 1000 Yards, 1st prize, £1.—H. Dwyer, 9th (1000), 1; J. R. Adams, 1st (500) 2nd, 2.

Boys' 1000 Yards, half mile, 1st prize, £2; 2nd, £1; 3rd, 10s.—Toller, 10yds, 1; Bennett, 2; Kivell, 10yds, 3. 11 others started. Time, 31 4 1/4 min.

Working with a Pole, handicap, 1st prize, £1.—Percy (2nd) handicap 10yds, 100 2nd, 1; Bennett second, 101 2nd, 2. Moffatt was the only other competitor for this event.

Recreation Handicap, 100yds, 1st prize, £2; 2nd, £1; 3rd, 10s.—This event was run in three heats. 1st heat: Lila, 1; Hunt, 2. 2nd heat: Buckley, 1; Toller, 2. 3rd heat: Toller, 1; Watson, 2. 4th heat: Bennett, 1; Adams, 2. Final heat: Bennett, 1yds, 1; Lila, 4yds, 2; Toller, 4yds, 3. Time, 10 min.

The Donkey Event.—The prize of 10s for this event was not awarded, as no boy could ride the donkey the stipulated distance. Great amusement was afforded by the attempts made by boys to ride the animal.

Polo-hand Race, 100 yds, 1st prize 20s, post entry, to no weight under 1st.—Tate, 1. Won easily.

Harrow Handicaps Race, 100 yds, over 10 hurdles about 2ft high, 1st prize, £2; 2nd £1. This was run in heats, the final resulting in Collins—F. Watson (second) 1; F. Pearson (2 yds) 2. Time, 18 4-5th min.

Handicaps Race (open under 17), 100 yards, handicap; over 10 hurdles about 2ft high; 1st prize, £1; 2nd, 5s.—This was run in two heats. In the final heat, Thomson (1yd) won, with Moore (1yd) second. Time, 18 1-2 min.

Mile Handicap—1st prize, £1; 2nd, £1.—Bennett, 10yds, 1; Johnston, 60yds, 2. Bennett won easily in both heats.

Handicaps Race—1st prize, £2; 2nd, 10s; 3rd, 5s.—Pearson (1 yds) Tate (2).

Ladies' Race, 200yds, handicap; 1st prize, handicap valued at £2; 2nd, handicap valued at 10s; 3rd, handicap valued at 10s.—Bennett, 10yds, nominated by Miss F. Threlk, came in first; Watson, scratch, nominated by Miss S. Webster, 2nd; Toller, 4yds, nominated by Miss Toller, 3rd; Time, 23 min.

Boys' Race (under 17), 100 yards; 1st prize, 10s; 2nd, 5s.—H. Dwyer, 1; H. Moore, 2.

The Tag of War, Five hands v. All Colors resulted in a win for the former after a good tussle.

Consolation Race, 100 yards; 1st prize, 10s; 2nd, 10s.—Bennett, 1; Buckley, 2; Lila, 3.

A Run off.—Toller and Bennett, who tried for the aggregate medal, ran off, when the latter won.

A question was raised over the winner's entry for the day's race as it was alleged he was over 17 years of age, and pending production of proof of his age, the Committee decided to hold over the prize won by him. The receipts amounted to over £100 during the day—a most satisfactory result for the first sports gathering on the new track.

TH, APRIL 14, 1890
MURDER IN RECREATION GROUND

**AN OLD MAN FOUND DEAD IN
THE PENN.**

**RECOGNISED AS STEPHEN
MALONEY.**

**SUSPICION THAT DEED DONE BY
MAORI.**

It will be remembered that in Saturday's issue it was reported that an old man named Stephen Maloney, who lived by himself in a small house in the east part of the Recreation Grounds, was missing since Friday, and the matter had been reported to the police that (Saturday) afternoon. Acting on the report which had been received from Mr T. Brennan, of Currie street, who took an interest in the old man, Sergeant Duffin went up to the Recreation Grounds on Saturday afternoon, and there saw Messrs J. Hensley, J. Connor, and Carroll, just, according to the missing man. The search was being conducted thoroughly, and while the party were searching the gully leading to the recessed a small dog, belonging to Mr Carroll, by its actions attracted some of the party to a particular spot in the gully, and on going to this place they found the body in among some fern and ferns. This spot is just about 10 feet from a point half way up the track that leads to the recessed, and by which runs the dead man was in the habit of going to his house, which lies on the left and opposite side of the track. Sergeant Duffin and the others when they saw the body at once concluded there was something unusual about the whole matter. The body was lying on the left side with the head pointing eastward, the left arm being underneath, the right arm crossed or crossed behind his back, and his left leg was crossed over his right. In addition to this his face was covered with blood, and it could at once be seen that there were many wounds about the head and face, and marks of violence on the throat. There was a scar across the forehead and spread one just above on the side of the head, and there was another cut on his left cheek. Lying about a yard from the centre of the body was a tomahawk which had the appearance of being bloody, although the recent rain had apparently partially cleaned the exposed side of it. Near by this instrument was a much worn pipe, which was recognised as belonging to the dead man. The left trouser pocket was also turned out. The hat and stick of the dead man were, however, missing. This man named as Maloney, who was a confirmed cripple from a disease of years standing, could not get about anywhere without the stick, but since into such a difficult place on the locality where the body was discovered. Sergeant Duffin, who at once saw there had been foul play, had the body and things removed to Mr Carroll's house, which is at the recessed end of the track, and from thence had it conveyed to town by express. Inspector Parry saw the body then, and immediately pronounced the case to be one of murder. The body was then taken to the morgue in the hospital grounds to await medical examination.

THE POST MORTEM

was held on Sunday morning by Drs. O'Connell and Leachman, who found that the front part of the throat had been smashed as if were by some blunt instrument, or excessive violent pressure, as to cause the death of the man. Besides this there were the slashes on the head and face before mentioned; in fact the injuries showed that a foul and brutal murder had been committed.

THE LAST SEEN

of the murdered man was between 11 and 12 o'clock on Friday, when Mr Claffey, the caretaker of the Recreation Grounds, was then going through the grounds on his way home. It appears that on Friday morning Mrs Carroll, who, with her husband, looked after the old man to a great extent, had seen him go to town about 7 o'clock, and he was to accompany an errand for her by going to the Co-operative Store and ordering flour. While on his way to the town he passed Mr Claffey, who was working on the cutting of the sports track in the grounds. He accosted Mr Claffey, and asked him if a young Maori was working on the cricket at the sports track, as he had given such a man a cup of tea that morning, and this man told him that he was working on the grounds. Mr Claffey remarked that he should give him another cup if he came again next morning, and thus the conversation ended. Just between 11 and 12 o'clock, as near as he could judge by the ringing of the High School bell, Mr Claffey saw Maloney returning from town with a kit in his hands, but on this occasion as far as could be learned no conversation took place between them. This was the last time Maloney was seen alive. On Friday night Mr Carroll missed the old man, as he was not in his house, and this disturbed him so much, as it was such an unusual occurrence that he made a search for him, but in vain. He then shut up the house. On Saturday Maloney was still missing, and the neighbours, becoming alarmed, commenced an active search for him, with the result that on Saturday afternoon the body was found as narrated above.

THE TOMAHAWK

that was used to account the dastardly deed was recognized as belonging to the murdered man. It was thought that he had gone down the gully to look for fresh man, as his foot had away from town probably, and that he had taken the tomahawk with him to cut away ferns and fern in his hands. As his stick could not be found, however, it seemed queer how he could have got to the place, considering that he was scarcely able, or, in fact, could not walk without the aid of his stick. There were a great many stones, some including in the belief that he had been unburied elsewhere, and his body carried to where it was found. This opinion, however, was considerably nullified by the fact that at the spot where the body was found there were traces of a struggle, as the fern, etc., was broken away.

THE CRIME

of the murder was decidedly ordinary, when the position of the pipe and the state of the pocket are considered, but the gain by the murder must have been very small, as the poor old man was a recipient of charitable aid, and had no means where with to enrich himself. A few shillings would be most probably the amount he would have about him at the time. No one who was in the slightest degree acquainted with the circumstances of the case could therefore imagine of such a deed with an object of robbery.

THE HAT AND STICK

of the murdered man was found on Sunday morning, about 5 yards to the right of the spot where the body was discovered, by Sergeant Duffin and Constable Scully, who went up to make a further search of the locality, but nothing more was discovered to three additional light on the crime.

DETAINED ON SUSPICION.

Sergeant Duffin on Sunday morning arrested a young Maori named Maki Kai on suspicion. This Maori, whose age is about 20 years, belongs to Paritutu, and was liberated from jail about a fortnight ago, after serving a short sentence for breaking and entering the dwelling of Mr Wierall, on the Cape Road, and stealing therefrom a watch, Silver tin ornaments, Maki Kai has been about town.

TH, APRIL 22, 1890
FANCY DUCKS GIFTED TO REC

Mr Albert Griffin, of Little River, Canterbury, who was recently taken over the Recreation Grounds by Mr J. Paul, sent by the Hon. Takaneta on Sunday a pair of fancy ducks for the ornamental lake, the receipt of which the Secretary has reported on to acknowledge.

TH, MAY 10, 1890
BIG TROUT IN LAKE

A very large English trout, weighing 15 lbs, was taken from the Recreation Ground pond on Thursday last while the pond was being drained by the police in connection with the murder of Maloney. The fish was a splendid specimen of its sort, and shows how well the imported fish thrive in local waters. The fish was sold by the hon. secretary of the Board for 5s, and it was afterwards served up on the table at the White Hart Hotel, when it was pronounced by all who partook of it to be excellent.

TH, MAY 20, 1890
SWANS DEPART GROUNDS

The two swans in the Recreation Ground have taken their departure for fresh fields since the pond was drained in connection with the murder case. Mr Harris Ford, hon. mem. of the Board, will be glad to receive information of their whereabouts.

TH, JUNE 10, 1890
**RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday. Present: Messrs J. T. Davis (chairman), T. K. Skinner, R. C. Haggan, R. Cook, F. P. Corbitt, and Harris Ford.

A Boat.—P. Martin, of Smart Road, wrote offering to sell the Board a boat for 25 lbs.—Letter was ordered to lie on the table.

Water Lilies.—The hon. secretary was authorized to dispose of a few roots of the water lilies growing in the lake at 5s each.

Holloworthy Road.—The Chairman and Mr Skinner were deputed to meet Mr N. King and arrange with him about the gate and entrance to the grounds from the Holloworthy Road.

The Lost house.—It was decided, "That the police be requested to secure the return of the swans to the grounds, and they be charged with two weeks' labor rendered by Claffey to them in connection with draining the lake."

The key.—It was resolved to instruct the secretary to write to Mr Carroll and inform him that the Board will terminate his tenancy of sections at the end of his present term.—It was further resolved, "That the custodian be instructed to apply to Mr Carroll on behalf of the Board for the turnstile and posts belonging to the Board now in his possession."

The Board adjourned.

TH, JUNE 9, 1890
LOST SWANS FOUND

Two of three swans that left the lake in the Recreation Grounds when it was drained in connection with the murder of Makony, were brought into town by Mr Arthur this (Monday) morning, but one was dead. It appears that a wether, Mr E. Crisp, at Cape Egmont, saw the birds, and captured them, but in the last one swan received injuries from a dog which caused death. The third swan has not been heard of yet.

TH, AUGUST 21, 1890

NEW PLYMOUTH
RECREATION GROUND.

ATHLETIC CLUB SPORTS.

PRINCE OF WALES' BIRTHDAY
Monday, 10th November, 1890.

Proceeds to be devoted to further improvements.

Seconds: Messrs J. T. Davis, H. G. Beachops, H. H. Ray, H. Ainsworth, R. Humphries, W. H. Skinner, J. H. Lightfoot, H. Demsey, W. Bennett, A. Gobbwater, P. Watson, E. Kirall, T. Furlong, Jrs., G. W. Brown, and J. Halsey.

Judges: Messrs Beachops and Davis.

Starter: Mr E. Humphries.

Handicappers: Messrs H. Kirall and P. Watson.

Timekeeper: Mr J. H. Parker.

PROGRAMME:

- 1 Hurdle Race, 100 yards.—1st prize, £1; 2nd, 5s. Post entry 1s
 - 2 Hurdle High Jump (handicap).—1st prize, £1. Nomination 1s, acceptance 1s
 - 3 440 Yards Handicap.—1st prize, £2; 2nd, £1. Nomination 1s, acceptance 1s
 - 4 200 Yards Handicap, for boys under 17.—1st prize 10s, 2nd 5s. Nomination 1s, acceptance free
 - 5 Vaulting with Pole (handicap)—1st prize £1. Post entry 1s
 - 6 Half-mile Handicap—1st prize £2, 2nd £1. Nomination 1s, acceptance 5s
 - 7 Egg Race, 50 yards—Prize £1. Post entry, 1s
 - 8 100 yards Handicap Hurdles—1st prize £2; 2nd, £1. Nomination 1s, acceptance 1s
 - 9 100 yards Handicap Hurdles (Boys under 17)—1st prize 10s; 2nd 5s. Entry 1s, acceptance free
 - 10 100 Yards Handicap—1st prize £2; 2nd £1. Nomination 1s, acceptance 1s
 - 11 Obstacle Race—1st prize £2; 2nd 10s. Post entry 1s
 - 12 Tag of War—Post entry 1s
 - 13 250 Yards Handicap—1st prize £2; 2nd £1. Nomination 1s, acceptance 1s
 - 14 Forced Handicap, 150 yards—1st prize £1; 2nd 10s. Post entry—Winners, 5s; losers, 1s.
- Junior Foot Race. To start at 2 p.m. Post entry 1s.

First race to start at 11.15 a.m.

The meeting will be conducted under the rules of the Wanganui Colonial Society (as far as practicable).

Nominations for all handicap events to be in the hands of Mr E. Humphries, by 2 p.m. on Monday, October 27th, 1890.

susceptible by the necessary labour to cut, and also all performances for the previous two years; if competitors have not run during that time, the last three performances to be given.

Handicaps will be declared on Saturday, 1st November.

Acceptance on the ground 15 minutes before starting.

Competitors to wear proper athletic costumes.

The decisions of the Judges in all cases to be final.

Winners will have the option of taking trophies or cash.

In the event of the weather being unfavorable, the management reserve the right to postpone the sports till a future date.

The Tararaki Rifles Band will play selections during the day.

Admission to grounds, 1s; children under 12, half-price.

Racing on the Lake and other amusements.

Three competitors to start or no second prize.

W. H. SKINNER,
Hon Sec

Recreation Grounds Sports Committee.

TH, SEPTEMBER 6, 1890
APPEAL FOR GATE IMPROVEMENTS

The erection of the ornamental gates and railing at the principal entrance to the Recreation Grounds will be undertaken soon, that is, if the public respond liberally to the canvass which is about to be managed by Mr H. Hughes Solicitor. It will be remembered that Mr Hughes, who had made a successful arrangement last summer, suspended his work, owing to the demand upon public benevolence arising out of bush fires. The amount required will be about £25, of which about £8 has been promised. If possible, the gates will be erected in time for the Athletic Sports on the 24th November next. An every man, woman, and child in the district has an interest in the Ground, there ought to be no difficulty in raising the amount required in a week.

TH, SEPTEMBER 13, 1890
PLANT DONATIONS

Mr Harris Ford, hon. secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board begs to acknowledge the following donations to the grounds:—Camellia trees from Miss Doreenish, Mrs Skinner sent, and Mr T. Veale; pumpkins grass from Mr J. Skinner; native shrubs, from Mr L. Ibbotson; and rustic lattice-work railing for the bridge near the bathing house from Mr A. Hood.

TH, SEPTEMBER 27, 1890
TENDER FOR MAIN GATE ERECTION

TENDERS

ARE invited for the Removal of the Gate, and Erection of Ornamental Fence from Llandet-street into the Recreation Grounds.

Plan and specification to be seen at Mr Moffin's shop, Brougham-street, where tenders will be received up to Wednesday, 1st October, at 11 a.m.

2583 ROBERT HUGHES.

TH, OCTOBER 8, 1890
ERECTION OF GATES STARTED

A start has been made towards erecting the ornamental gates at the Llandet-street entrance of the Recreation Grounds, under the supervision of Mr Moffin, who has given his services gratuitously. Mr Hughes, who worked so hard in collecting funds, is to be congratulated on the attainment of his object.

TH, OCTOBER 31, 1890
FUNDRAISING

Grand Bazaar

IN AID OF THE

RECREATION GROUNDS.

MONDAY, NOV. 10TH.

A WONDERFUL DISPLAY OF
FANCY AND PLAIN WORK

of every description, including a most *Exquisite Refreshment Staff.*

In the evening,

A Fashionable Concert,
Maypole Dance,
Art Gallery,

and every sort of amusement for old and young.

Admission—Adults, 5s; Children, 2s.

Programme for Concert in future issues.

TH, NOVEMBER 11, 1890
BAZAAR HUGE SUCCESS

THE BAZAAR

The bazaar, held in the Alexandra Hall, in the afternoon and evening, in aid of the Recreation Grounds, was an immense success, which fact must have been very gratifying to those ladies who presented and carried it out.

TH, NOVEMBER 25, 1890
GATE ERECTION COMPLETE

The new ornamental iron gates that have been erected at the Llandet-street entrance of the Recreation Grounds, are a decided improvement on the primitive structure that used to serve the same purpose. The thanks of the community are due to Mr H. Hughes, esq., for the impetus, as that gentleman warmly took up the matter of erecting new gates, and by a diligent campaign he raised sufficient money to cover all costs. It is now proposed to build a stone wall on the right side, in order to give the gates a finished appearance, and for this purpose Mr Hughes states he has enough money in hand. The plans for the gates were drawn out by Mr Moffin, architect, who also gave his services gratuitously.

TH, DECEMBER 20, 1890
BAND ROTUNDA TENDER

TENDERS.

TENDERS will be received until noon of January 9th, 1891, for the ERECTION of BAND ROTUNDA, in the Recreation grounds, New Plymouth.

Plans and specification at my office. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

A. MOFFLIN,
Architect.

Highway-street,
December 20th, 1890. 4352

TH, DECEMBER 23, 1890
BAND ROTUNDA UPDATE

The Band rotunda in the Recreation Ground, for the erection of which Mr Mofflin is now calling tenders, will be rather a handsome structure, judging by the plans which Mr Mofflin has drawn out. The rotunda will be built on the concrete foundation made for the purpose at the head of the lake.

At a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board held last week, a resolution was passed thanking all those who assisted and took part in the recent fete held in aid of the grounds. A sum of £70 was also acknowledged from the ladies who had the management of the fete.



Pretty cascade hidden away in the stream by the Palm Lawn.
(private collection, Alan Metcalfe)

1891

The Board found itself in a position to complete the Band Rotunda which arrived in early February from Scott Bros. in Christchurch, they were determined to have it erected in time for the New Plymouth 50th jubilee celebrations which started on March 30th and they achieved this. It was erected by T. Bond & Co. The jubilee was a major event which lasted a week, and several programme items were held in the Recreation Grounds. There was a jubilee sports day attended by around 2500 spectators, including the premiere John Ballance. The jubilee marked fifty years since the first European settlers arrived in 1841.

Further improvements were made to the Sports Ground, including: fully sowing the field, improving the terraces which were minimal at that time, and erecting a fence to stop spectators wandering onto the field.

A path to the waterfall (now the waterwheel) was made from the west of the grounds, this was possible since they had purchased Section 1086, and a bridge was erected over the stream above it. At that stage, the Gill Street entrance did not exist and the land which now forms Smith Walk was being rented out.

A major land acquisition was that of former Maori Reserve No 12, four full sections plus some part sections totalling over one acre. These sections cover part of Fountain Lake and Palm Lawn.

Again, the Board lost its chairman. James Davis (The Poet's Bridge donor) drowned in the lake in September. Davis had been out one evening visiting his sister whose home he left at about 10pm. On his way home he decided to go for a skinny dip in the lake, and for whatever reason he drowned. The next morning the supervisor of a prison crew saw a pile of clothes by the bathing shed and when he could not see anyone in the lake sent someone in a canoe to look. Davis's body was found in the lake opposite the bathing shed. The inquest resulted in the verdict of accidental drowning. There was no indication of foul play or suspicion of suicide.

A fire at the bathing shed in March was a bizarre event. The east end fire bell was rung, when people arrived at the bell the person sounding the alarm was the same person who had deliberately lit the fire. It later became known that the young man responsible wanted to go to jail for lighting the fire to hide two more serious offences. He was charged with the more serious offences and sentenced to eight years in Mount Eden Gaol.

A fourth cannon was donated to the grounds by Reginald Bayley after his departure to Wellington. Bayley a board member from 1877 to 1880 produced the plans for the Recreation Ground. He went to Wellington to take up a position with the government as Assistant Registrar in the head office of the Stamp Department in Wellington.

Clement Govett donated £20 for native trees with the proviso that the Board raise an equal amount. This led to 2915 native trees from all parts of the Taranaki region being planted during September. This included: 115 titi or cabbage tree, 69 mountain toi, 76 manuka rauriki, 189 horoeka or lancewood, 270 tarata, 110 ramarama, 40 wharangi (puka), 142 rewarewa (honeysuckle), 175 titoki or tapitapi, 109 kawakawa, 1 ngaio, 55 kohekohe or cedars, 223 totara, 58 nikau (palm), 60 rimu (red pines), 39 kahikatea (white pine), 53 miro, 30 tainui, 12 paratawhiti (the edible fern), 20 kowhai (yellow), 12 Prince of Wales feather ferns, 1 parapara or birdlime tree, 5 puka (parasite), 100 koromiko, 52 tawa, 2 rata, 14 akeake, 40 matai, 45 pukatea, 26 maire, 212 puriri, 1 stinging nettle of New Zealand, 12 spear grass (wild Irishmen), 248 shrubs from the ranges, of different varieties, 170 matipo (red birch), 125 karaka. The planting was supervised by Mr Kidd a landscape gardener from Inglewood. Kidd also planned the initial layout of Newton King's garden at Brooklands. Pukatea, Kahikatea and some of the rimu that are growing in the area between the Tea House and the Fred Parker Lawn are the result of this planting. Miss Devenish, and Messrs J. Elliot, C. Kyngdon, M. Sutherland, J. Wheeler, H. Arden, and Conolly also donated native plants around the same time.

Summary of significant events

- T Bond & Co given job of erecting Band Rotunda.
- Band Rotunda arrives in New Plymouth.
- Further improvements to sports ground and a fence built to keep spectators of the sports field.
- Track to waterfall (now waterwheel) and bridge completed.
- Taranaki celebrates 50 years following the arrival of the first European settlers on March 30th 1841.
- Band Rotunda completed in time for Jubilee celebrations.
- Board initiate purchase a block of land on Fillis Street formerly Native Reserve No 12.
- Death of J. T. Davis.
- Reginald Bayley donates an old cannon.

TH, JANUARY 12, 1891
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

At the Recreation Grounds Board meeting on Friday night the tender of Messrs T. Bead & Co., £24 10s, was accepted for completion of the band rotunda. The other tender was Mr W. F. Brooking, £105. The annual balance-sheet, which was highly satisfactory, was also submitted to the meeting.

TH, FEBRUARY 16, 1891
ROTUNDA FRAMING ARRIVES

The iron framing for the Band Rotunda in the Recreation Grounds was landed from the Takapuna, on Saturday.

TH, FEBRUARY 16, 1891
JUBILEE SPORTS.
NEW PLYMOUTH.

MONDAY & TUESDAY, 30th and 31st March, 1891.

THE Annual Meeting of the New Plymouth Athletic Club will be held in the Recreation Grounds on the above date.

EASTER MONDAY & TUESDAY!

Committee: Messrs J. T. Davis, R. G. Beachy, R. H. Roy, H. Ashworth, R. Humphries, W. D. Skinner, J. M. Lightfoot, H. Dempsey, W. Bennett, A. Goldwater, F. Watson, R. G. Kivell, T. Partridge, jun., G. W. Brown, J. Halsey, W. Perry, C. T. Mills, F. Jackson, J. Kivell, F. Moore, H. L. Stockley, T. K. Hillman, H. Ford, H. Cook. Judges: Messrs R. G. Beachy, J. T. Davis, R. H. Nolan, and W. Adams. Starter: J. M. Lightfoot. Marshal: R. H. Kivell. Timekeeper: J. H. Parker.

PROGRAMME:

- First Day, Easter Monday, 30th March.**
1. Golden Race. 150 yards. 1st prize, £2; 2nd prize, £1. Entrance, 2s. For all who have never won an advertised race.
 2. High Jump. Handicap. 1st prize, £2; 2nd prize, 10s. Nomination 1s; acceptance, 1s.
 3. Throwing the Hammer (16lb). 1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd prize, 10s. Entrance, 2s.
 4. 200 Yards Handicap, for Boys under 17. 1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd prize, 10s. Nomination, 1s; acceptance 1s.
 5. Half-Mile Handicap. 1st prize, £5; 2nd prize, £2; 3rd prize, £1. Nomination, 2s; acceptance, 1s.
 6. Hop, Step, and Jump. Handicap. 1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd prize, 10s. Nomination, 1s; acceptance, 1s.
 7. Throwing 45lb Weight over Bar. Handicap. 1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd prize, 10s. Entrance, 2s.
 8. Handicap Hurdle Race. 200 Yards. Over 10 Hights of hurdles. 1st prize, £5; 2nd prize, £2; 3rd prize, £1. Nomination, 2s; acceptance, 1s.
 9. Sack Race. 50 Yards. 1st prize, £1. Entrance, 1s.
 10. Vaulting with Poles. Handicap. 1st prize, £2; 2nd prize, £1. Nomination, 1s; acceptance, 2s.
 11. Bicycle Handicap. One mile. 1st prize, £2; 2nd prize, £1. Nomination, 1s; acceptance, 2s.

12. Jockey Handicap. 400 Yards. 1st prize, £5; 2nd prize, £2; 3rd prize, £1. Nomination, 2s; acceptance, 4s.
13. Four Part Race. 1st prize, £1 10; 2nd prize, 10s. Entrance, 2s.
14. Old Man's Race (over 45). 1st prize, £2; 2nd prize, £1. Entrance, 2s.
15. Three-legged Race. 1st prize, £1. Entrance, 1s.
16. Putting the Staff. 1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd prize, 10s. Entrance, 2s.
7. Volunteer and Fire Brigade Handicap. 200 Yards. 1st prize, £2; 2nd prize, £1 10s; 3rd prize, 10s. Nomination, 1s; acceptance, 2s. For members of Thameside District Volunteer Corps and Fire Brigades. To be run in uniform tunics and trousers.
8. Running Long Jump. Handicap. 1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd prize, 10s. Nomination 1s; acceptance, 1s.
13. Maori Handicap. 200 Yards. 1st prize, £2; 2nd prize, £1. Nomination, 1s; acceptance, 1s. (Half-mile barred.)

First event at 11 a.m. sharp.

Second Day, Tuesday, March 31.

1. Handicap Hurdles. 150 Yards. Over 10 hurdles. 1st prize, £4; 2nd prize, £2; 3rd prize, £1. Nomination, 2s; acceptance, 1s.
2. Handicap Hurdles. 130 yards. For boys under 17. 1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd prize, 10s. Nomination, 1s; acceptance, 1s.
3. Ten-up-War. Kaitiaki v. Maori. Prize, £1, and entrance money. Entrance, 2s each.
4. One Mile Handicap. 1st prize, £7; 2nd prize, £2; 3rd prize, £1. Nomination, 4s; acceptance, 1s.
5. Wheelbarrow Race. (Bilminster). 1st prize, £1; 2nd prize 10s. Entrance, 1s.
6. Junction Handicap. 200 yards. 1st prize, £5; 2nd prize, £2; 3rd prize, £1. Nomination, 2s; acceptance, 4s.
7. Bicycle Handicap. 2 miles. 1st prize, £2; 2nd prize, £1. Nomination, 2s; acceptance, 2s.
8. Boys' Race. Under 15. 100 yards.
9. Wrestling. Cumberland Style. 1st prize £2. Entrance, 2s.
10. Junction Handicap. 100 yards. 1st prize, £2; 2nd prize, £1; 3rd prize, £1. Nomination, 2s; acceptance, 2s.
1. Obstacle Race. 1st prize, £1; 2nd prize, £1. Entrance, 1s.
2. Obstacle Race, for Boys under 18. 1st prize, £1 10s; 2nd prize, 10s. Entrance, 1s.
3. Fenced Handicap. 100 yards. 1st prize, £2; 2nd prize, £1 10s; 3rd prize, 10s. Entrance—Winners 4s; losers, 1s.

14. Maori Haka.

1st prize, £10; 2nd prize, £5; 3rd prize, £2. Not less than 25 men a side. Entrance, FREE.

First event at 1 p.m. sharp.

£155 Total Value of Prizes - £155

TH, FEBRUARY 26, 1891
FIRE IN THE BATHING SHED

BATHING SHED IGNITED.

At about 1 o'clock this (Thursday) morning the east end fireball rang out an alarm, and was speedily followed by the west end bell. A great number of people turned out, but as there was no reflection to guide them they were at a loss to tell where the situation of the fire was. Those who ran to the east end bell saw a young man named James Salisbury, who lives at Mangere, ringing the bell, and he speedily informed them that he had started a fire at the bathing shed in the Recreation Grounds. His auditors would not believe him, but some of them were finally in-

duced to go and see for themselves. On arriving at the shed the spectators found the place blazing on the southern side, a quantity of firewood and light inflammable stuff having been heaped up on the veranda and against the side of the house, which was fast catching. The party at once broke in the door of the house and procured a bucket, with which they drew water from the lake and extinguished the flames.

On account of the way Salisbury talked at the fireball to Constable Lister and Scully and others he was taken in charge, and brought down by Constable Scully to the police station and locked up. Salisbury remarked that he was full up of working for 5s a week, which was the rate of wages since Courtney commenced to send out immigrants, and wanted to go to gold. He evinced great surprise that the shed was not burnt down, and remarked more than once that "he was not kidding" the people when he affirmed that he set fire to the place. The Fire Brigade turned out promptly on the alarm, under Captain Baker.

SALISBURY BEFORE THE COURT.

James Salisbury was brought before R. Harris, Esq., J.P., and H. Weston, Esq., J.P., at 10 o'clock to-day (Thursday), and was charged with wilfully and maliciously setting fire to the bathing shed in the Recreation Grounds.

Mr Panty said the accused had been arrested at about 1 o'clock that morning under the following circumstances:—Accused was found ringing the East End fireball, and on being asked where the fire was he said it was at the bathing house in the Recreation Grounds, which he had set on fire, and that he had at first thought of setting fire to the Grand Stand, on the racecourse, but thought that would have been a pity. The fire at the bathing-house was extinguished by some young men, who hurried to the place on hearing what Salisbury had said. As the accused had only been arrested that morning he would ask for a respite until Friday.

The Bench formally remanded accused till Friday at 10.30 o'clock.

The Court rose.

TH, MARCH 2, 1891
ROTUNDA NOT AS ORDERED

The Recreation Ground Board have decided to proceed with the Band rotunda, in the makers of the framework, which, it is stated, was not according to plan, have made a concession in the price.

TH, MARCH 23, 1891
IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

TO THE MARKET.

Next—a rare visit to the Recreation Grounds provided me with a great surprise in marking the great improvements a few weeks' steady work have wrought. Into a busy scene is presented with the workmen on the rotunda, the tree man cutting out trees and beneficiating generally, and the construction being in finishing the athletic grounds. The track and bridges to "the waterfall" are already completed, thus revealing to the public view a charming little scene, hitherto almost unknown to those who frequent the grounds. Those who at present have these improvements under their direction are seeking still further efforts for the comfort and convenience of the public, I am told. This

consists in their having been constructed along the terraces, so that people may occupy them and watch in comfort what is going on below on the sports ground.

As one of the public who anticipate occupying one of these seats, may I suggest that a small change be made for their use. Speaking for many, I am very sure it would be most gratefully paid. A change of from threepence to shapansha band, with a reduction for families, would bring in a nice little revenue to the Board, which, I venture to say, would be most acceptable.

—[sig, &c.,

DUNEDIN, WEST WARD.

TH, MARCH 24, 1891
NP JUBILEE ADVERT

JUBILEE

OF THE
TARANAKI PROVINCIAL
DISTRICT,
1891.

PROGRAMME

COMMENCING MONDAY, MARCH 23.

MONDAY.

ART and INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION will be opened at the Central School Building, at 11 a.m. sharp, by the Hon. JOHN BALLANCE, Premier of New Zealand.

ATHLETIC SPORTS, commencing at 11 a.m., in the Recreation Grounds. Exhibitions will be open during the evening, when the Electric Light will be used for the first time in New Plymouth.

TUESDAY.

A PROCESSION will meet at the town hall near the Railway Station at 11 a.m., when the Mayor of New Plymouth will deliver an inaugural address; after which a march will be made along the Beach Road, up Queen-street, along Devon-street to Terrace-street, thence to Chalmers-street, branching off at Government-street to the Recreation, where the children will be provided with refreshments at 12.30 o'clock; adults to pay best.

ATHLETIC SPORTS, and **MAORI HAKA** during the afternoon.

AGRICULTURAL SHOW during the day, in the Society's grounds, Gill-street.

GRAND PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY, in the Recreation Grounds, to commence at 8 p.m. Bands in attendance. Exhibitions.

WEDNESDAY.

TARANAKI ANNIVERSARY BAZAR, in connection at noon.

PRODUCTION SHOW, in the Central School Building, during the day and evening, in conjunction with Exhibitions.

OPERA—"PATIENCE"—(under the direction of Mr. Spence), will be held in the Alexandra Hall, to commence at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY.

Taranaki Anniversary Bazaar, Exhibition.
Open—"Patience."

FRIDAY.

Exhibitions—**SACRED CENSURE** during evening, to be rendered by Rev. Plymouth Marine Society.

PLANO RECITAL, in Alexandra Hall, during the evening.

The Committee will wear a Red, White, and Blue Ribbon during the week.

TH, MARCH 25, 1891 SPORTS TRACK IMPROVEMENTS

The contractors for the Recreation Ground sports track have almost completed their work, and with a spell of fine weather now the ground will be in capital going order for the sports next week.

TH, MARCH 28, 1891 JUBILEE PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME TO THURSDAY NIGHT.

In order to give our readers an early reference of the several events that take place in connection with the Jubilee Celebrations we have grouped the same in order up to Thursday night. The later notices referred to in an appended.

SUNDAY.

There will be Easter Services in the Churches on Sunday. In the evening a Grand Jubilee Service will be held in the Alexandra Hall after church hours. The programme of the service is appended:—**Commencement Service**, Alexandra Hall, March 28, 1891, at 8 p.m.; the Ven. Archbishop Greville presiding; "Hymns," "All People That on Earth do Dwell," etc.; "Prayer, Rev. P. W. Fairclough; Lesson, Rev. J. Nixon; Hymns," "Now Thank We All our God," etc.; Address, Ven. Archbishop Greville; Hymns," "Hallelujah To God With One Accord," etc.; Address, Rev. W. Goss; "To Deum, Choir; Benediction, Rev. H. E. Brown.

MONDAY.

On Easter Monday morning the Jubilee festivities will commence. The first matter that will require attention is the Art and Industrial Exhibition, which will be opened at the Central School Building, at 11 a.m. sharp, by the Hon. John Ballance, Premier of New Zealand. The Band will be in attendance. A novelty to many people on the same night will be the fact that the Exhibition will be lighted up with electric light. The Exhibition will be open all days and nights during the week.

The Athletic Sports in the Recreation Grounds will commence at 11 o'clock. The Band will also be in attendance after they have played at the opening of the Exhibition.

The Recreation Ground will be occupied on Monday, when the local club play Napier.

An eight a GUYARD'S BALL will take place in the Alexandra Hall, particulars of which will be found in our advertising columns.

TUESDAY.

On Tuesday (Anniversary Day) the place of residence will be the Jubilee Processions, which will form on the new road near the Railway Station at 11 a.m., when His Worship the Mayor of New Plymouth (Mr. James DeBorja), will deliver an inaugural address; after which a march will be made along the Beach Road, up Queen-street, along Devon-street to Terrace-street, thence to Chalmers-street, branching off at Government-street to the Recreation, where the children will be provided with refreshments at 12.30 o'clock; adults to pay best. The order of the Procession has been arranged as follows by the Jubilee Committee, subject, of course, to alterations:—**March Band**, the Bandits, Waikato veterans, school children, Langwood Band, tables, Friendly Society, Herald procession of children, kindred Friendly Societies, tables, Temperance Band, tables, etc. The procession will be accompanied with industrial trophies.

After the Procession, the Athletic Sports (second day) will be held in the Recreation Grounds, the first event starting at one o'clock.

The Anniversary Bazaar will be another attraction, it being held this year on the old ground, St. George's Square.

An eight a GUYARD'S PROCESSION will be held in the Recreation Grounds, when all the Bands which took part in the Procession will be present. The DAY will commence at 8 o'clock.

The Exhibition will be open during the day and night, as usual, and each night there will be an entertainment.

TH, MARCH 31, 1891 JUBILEE SPORTS REVIEW

FIRST DAY—MONDAY.

Committee: Messrs J. T. Davis, R. G. Bardsley, R. B. For, E. Ainsworth, E. Humphreys, W. H. Skinner, J. M. Lightfoot, H. Dempsey, W. Bennett, J. Goldwater, F. Watson, E. H. Kivell, T. Parling, Junr., G. W. Brown, J. Hiley, W. Perry, C. T. Mills, F. Jackson, J. Kivell, F. Moore, H. L. Stockey, T. K. Skinner, H. Ford, R. Cook. Judges Messrs R. G. Bardsley, H. Dempsey, and J. Hiley. Starter: Mr J. M. Lightfoot. Handicapper: Mr R. H. Kivell. Timekeeper: Mr J. H. Parker.

The weather on Easter Monday could not have been surpassed—the sky was perfectly clear and blue, and the rays of the sun were tempered by a delightful breeze—and in consequence a vast concourse of people wended their way to the Recreation Grounds to view the athletic sports. There must have been fully 2000 persons in the grounds during the afternoon. Those who were from outside places expressed themselves delighted with the grounds, the natural beauty of which every avowed could not be equalled in any part of the colony. The enjoyment of the day was considerably heightened by the music directed by the Misses Reid, who, under Bandmaster Gurney, occupied a position within the track. Many improvements were noticed about the ground, which would take too much space to particularise here. It is sufficient to say that the Athletic Club have simply done wonders, considering the money at their disposal. The racing track was kept entirely free of the public by the erection of a fence, the spectators viewing the event from the terraces and other splendid places of observation which abound. There were two refreshment booths on the ground; one being run by Messrs West and Webb, and other by Mr D. Ramsey. Both appeared to do a thriving trade. There was also a Waikato boy Hoolia on the ground, who did some good feats, and several strolling musicians treated the public to different parts of the ground to some excellent music. The dressing house for competitors was an improvement on former meetings, and the indefatigable secretary, Mr Ad. Goldwater, carried out his duties in a most creditable manner by the track. Messrs Ainsworth, Jackson, Perry, and J. Kivell ran a bird-on-the-wing machine for the Club, and did capital business right through the day. Mr Battersworth also made a profitable thing out of the sale of the race cards. The whole of the officers, who are named in the heading, worked with great order, and consequently the events were got off without any hitch, and to time. During the day the Hon. Mr Ballance, Premier, paid a visit to the sports. Presence on our sports grounds giving the results to-day.

TH, APRIL 1, 1891 JUBILEE FIREWORKS DISPLAY

THE PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY.
There were thousands of people in the Recreation Grounds on Tuesday night to witness the pyrotechnic display in connection with the Jubilee. The grounds were simply alive with people, and as the of the number present might be estimated from the gate receipts, which totalled

1141. The fireworks display was in the hands of Mr Hazard, of Auckland, who appeared to give general satisfaction to the public. Some splendid music was discoursed by the Bands who took part in the procession in the morning. The band returns, which was completed the other day, was used by the Bands, who found it a great convenience.

The trees in the vicinity of the Lake were hung with Chinese lanterns. Some dissatisfaction was expressed by the public at the duration of the two intervals, but in justice to Mr Hazard, it should be stated that these intervals had nothing to do with fire, but were arranged by the Committee who had the management of the display.

**TH, APRIL 9, 1891
JUBILEE PROFITS**

RECEIPTS AT VARIOUS AMUSEMENTS

The receipts at the two days' Jubilee athletic sports totaled over £400, and after all debts were paid, the Club had a sum of £254, which will be spent in improving the grounds.

There was a sum of £106 taken on Wednesday night at the first performance of "Patience" by local amateurs, and on the following night the sum taken was £98. At the pyrotechnic display in the Recreation Grounds on Tuesday night the takings were £181. At the races on Wednesday and Thursday near £400 was put through the spectators. The Club will account well financially. The receipts at the Exhibition during the week were £340, or over.

**TH, APRIL 15, 1891
DUNCAN ROSS EXHIBITION**

RECREATION GROUNDS, NEW PLYMOUTH.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12th, at 4.30 p.m.

(Under the patronage of the New Plymouth Athletic Club.)

DUNCAN R. ROSS, Champion Athlete of the World, and Capt. Churchward, 5th Bengal Lancers. Exhibition in Bowed and Barrenmanship, Wrestling, Athletics. One Shilling per minute to anyone Ross cannot throw. Admission, 1s. 6d.

**TH, APRIL 17, 1891
ATHLETIC AND MILITARY GAMES**

The Athletic and Military Games at the Recreation Grounds to-morrow are attracting considerable attention. Several local athletes and two Maori wrestlers will try conclusions with Ross in the wrestling bouts. Ross is desirous of meeting as many of our local athletes and wrestlers as are to meet him. Captain Churchward may also be associated to a bout with singlesticks (muscats). The contests will commence at 2.30, with the heavy weight competition, followed by Indian toe-pugging, lifting, wrestling, barrenmanship, heavy dumb-bells, clubs, and boys' race, &c. The admission is one shilling, children sixpence.

**TH, APRIL 20, 1891
REVIEW OF MILITARY GAMES**

ABOUT four hundred persons assembled in the Recreation Grounds on Saturday to witness the athletic exhibition by Mr Duncan C. Ross (the well-known all round athlete), and Captain Churchward (5th Bengal Lancers). The exhibition was given on the athletic track. The first number on the programme was lifting at the ring, in which Messrs Ross, Allan (Havers), and Captain Churchward competed. The ground was rather too soft for the horses, but nevertheless a very good exhibition of skill was given, the scores recorded being Ross, 18; Allan, 12; Churchward 9. Indian foot pugging followed. The rider in this competition rode full speed at the post, which is normal height in the ground, and tries to place it with his lance. The points for this are registered for a touch, split, pulling up, and also carrying away on the spear. The competition, which was a novel one, was won by Mr Allan, who scored 25. Ross scored 23, and Churchward 20. Ross conceded the other two competitions points. Mr Ross then cut a small bar of lead with a sword, when the bar was suspended from two pieces of paper. He also cut a potato on the neck of a local man, named Mr Gosco, without at all cutting Mr Gosco's skin. In double lifting Mr Ross showed some skill by lifting two dumb-bells weighing about 90lbs in one hand over his head. Messrs H. George, D. Penrose, A. Kivell, G. Hendry, J. Fisher, and others also performed the same feat. The feat of lifting the same bar over the head as the little finger by means of a handkerchief was also done by Mr Ross. Another gentleman also copied this. The lifting with two hands of a dumb-bell weighing 240lbs was next done by Mr Ross, who put it fair up over his head at arm's length. This feat was rather too difficult for the local talent, Messrs. the Maori, going nearest to the correct thing. Cutting a potato while God upon a handkerchief without cutting the handkerchief was another feat performed by Mr Ross. The exhibition concluded with some wrestling bouts, in which Mr Ross met Mr H. George and Messrs. and Mr George met Mr T. Jury. The styles were Churchward and a mixture of some others. This concluded the performance.

Mr Ross dines in the Hall at Waitara to-night (Monday), where he will meet Messrs in a wrestling match.

**TH, MAY 29, 1891
LIST OF SPORTS GROUND SPONSORS**

SPORTS SECTION OF RECREATION GROUNDS.

A FEW lines since we published the names of those who had made a donation of their £1 subscription to the sports section of the Recreation Grounds. As the list was incomplete, we have been requested by the secretary to publish a complete list of those who have come forward so generously and by their action enabled the Committee to complete the athletic grounds without entering into any further liability. As this will be a final acknowledgment, we shall publish the names of those who are named in the next edition.

Donations Received. — Archdeacon Garrett, 24; Mrs Hoy, 22. The following are £1 each:—Mrs Horvath, Mrs Marshall, Albert Daryl, F. A. Carrington, Oliver Shovel, Theo. White, Tamara Bennett,

Walter Wright, E. W. Holman, Dr. Louthan, E. Bole, Thomas Houghton, J. H. Skinner, H. H. West, J. H. Roy, C. P. Fooks, E. G. Higgins, Chasms Bennett, John Avery, A. D. Gray, B. Cook, J. T. Davis, Harry Ford, W. F. Dracott, F. G. Webster, W. Orstler, jun., J. G. Arthur, E. Dochert, Bob Dyer, A. Goshwater, Fred Watson, F. P. Corbett, J. Brown, J. W. Fooks, S. B. Day, T. Parkes, jun., Willie A. Carter, H. Hancock, J. S. McFadden, J. Hiley, H. Doresey, W. J. Shaw, J. H. Lightfoot, T. Gifford, Carl Day, M. K. Macdonald, K. White, T. K. Skinner, Thomas King, Thomas Brock, Eugene Foot Finery, William Bayly.

Subscription. — Major S. Harris, £10; Messrs. Shuttleworth Bros., £1 1s; Rutherford, £1; M.P. Cycling Club, 23 2s; Nicholson, 10s; Walter Duck, 10s; A. G. Fooks, 10s; H. S. McIsaac, 10s; W. Bam, 10s; H. W. Sartin, 1s.

**TH, MAY 30, 1891
FUNDRAISING OPERA**

A fully attended meeting of those who lately took part in the operas "Patience" and "Pinafore" was held at Mr Sparks' house on Friday evening, when it was unanimously decided to form a company for the purpose of producing Offenbach's opera, "Grand Duchess," in aid of the Recreation Grounds, and under the conductorship of Mr Sparks. A very strong committee of management was formed, and as anything connected with the Recreation Grounds always appeals to the public sympathy, we feel sure that when the opera is produced, in about four months' time, it will meet with the support it deserves. It may be added that the opera selected drew crowded houses for nine nights, under Mr Sparks' conductorship, when produced in Wanganui some time ago.

**TH, JUNE 16, 1891
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING**

RECREATION GROUNDS BOARD.

FIVE monthly meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday last. Present Messrs J. T. Davis (chairman), Corbett, Bay, Hughes, and Harris Ford (lex. sec).

Thanks.—A vote of thanks was accorded to those Jubilee gentlemen who kindly gave their refunded balances for the benefit of the Grounds.

Donation Request.—It was decided to ask the proprietors of the Criterion and White Hart Hotels to allow donation boxes to be placed in their premises.

Meeting Day.—The monthly meeting for the future will be held on the first Friday in each month.

Resol.—The Board passed a hearty vote of thanks to the Band for their services at Queen's Birthday.

Agreement.—The ladies who provided and dispensed the refreshments at the Queen's Birthday fete were also accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

Consent.—Mr Hughes was appointed treasurer for the month.

Salisbury Grounds.—Mr Hughes was deputed to see Mr A. G. Fooks about arrangements to purchase a piece of land that gentleman has for sale adjoining the ground, and to report to next meeting. The Board adjourned.

TH, JULY 2, 1891
DESCRIPTION OF RECREATION
GROUND

The Recreation Grounds cover some sixty acres of land, and as New Plymouth increases in size, and suburbs spring into existence in the south, the inhabitants will have cause to feel grateful to those who, in the early days of the settlement, had the foresight to set apart such a beautiful spot for the recreation of the people, as it will then be the centre of the city. The grounds can be entered from several directions, the chief being by way of Lisiket-street. At this entrance has been fitted up a pair of handsome gates, the gift of Mr. Shield, C.E., late Resident Engineer of the Harbour Works. In the gardens will be found several ornamental ponds, which have been constructed at the expense of the donors. Mr. T. Farling expended a considerable sum of money on a fountain, with a jet of about nine feet, which plays in the centre of a neatly-finished basin, formed of local stone. There is also an ornamental basin about five feet high, into which the fountain plays, and the spray afterwards descends to the lower basin. The effect of the fountain is heightened by a series of well-formed cascades running past it from the lake immediately above. Close to the fountain an ornamental pond has been made of considerable extent, in which are gold and silver fish. A short distance from Mr. Farling's fountain is another fountain, which is the gift of Dr. O'Connell. Mr. B. C. Hughes has also had an ornamental pond constructed. There is a large lake, which is situated at the south end by "The Peat's Bridge," the gift of Mr. J. T. Davis, of New Plymouth. The position on the east bank of the lake is also a source of attraction, especially when on warm evenings the Taranaki Volunteer Band discourses sweet music in the distance, which is pleasing to the ear as it floats over the water. During the stay of the Union Company's steamer at the wharves, the passengers by their land and come up to New Plymouth for the special purpose of seeing these beautiful grounds, and it is generally acknowledged that the spot is the prettiest piece of landscape scenery in New Zealand.

TH, JULY 4, 1891
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING
 The monthly meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday night. Present: Messrs Davis (chairman), Hughson, and Harris Ford.

Balance Due.—The Board received that a balance due to Mr. J. U. Davis, of Auckland, for the purchase of Mr. Dorsett's native tree, is paid.

Dequaring Land.—The offer of Mr. Fookes of the land in Eike-street for £125 was accepted, the amount to remain of interest at 4 per cent until the Board can pay by instalments of not less than £10.

Planting.—The secretary was authorized to obtain fencing material for enclosing the grounds near Owen Road and Wakefield-street.

The Board adjourned.

TH, JULY 13, 1891
DONATION OF PEACOCKS

Captain and Mrs. Halford have presented to the Recreation Grounds a peacock and hen, which Mr. Harris Ford requests to be, on behalf of the Board, acknowledge with thanks.

TH, AUGUST 3, 1891
CASH DONATION FOR PLANTING
TREES

A liberal offer has been made to the Recreation Grounds Board by a gentleman of this town, who has proposed to give £50 provided the Board will find an equal amount within two months, the whole amount to be spent in planting native trees and shrubs in the grounds. The Chairman will give £1 as a start towards the sum required, and no doubt the public will assist in securing the above liberal offer. We shall be happy to acknowledge in our paper any sums that may be subscribed.

TH, AUGUST 10, 1891
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday. Present:—Messrs Davis (chairman), Cook, Skinner, and Harris Ford (absent).

Finance.—Mr. G. Kinn, of Nelson, wrote regarding notices received by him from the Board.

Gifts Received.—Mr. R. Baxter, of Wellington, wrote offering the Board an old cannon, which he left behind at New Plymouth.—The offer was accepted with thanks.

A Generous Donation.—Mr. G. W. Dorey wrote offering the sum of £20 for the purpose of planting native shrubs, provided another £20 was actually subscribed within two months. The Board passed a resolution of thanks to Mr. Dorey for his handsome offer.

Native Shrub Nursery.—It was decided to form a nursery of native shrubs on the old strawberry bed gully, and that a notice be published asking for donations of native shrubs.

Thanks.—A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Hollinger for his generous contribution towards the Board.

Land purchased.—Mr. Houston informed the Board that the agreement with Mr. Fookes for the purchase of land to extend the grounds had been completed.

Donations.—A vote of thanks was passed to the Wesleyan congregation for a portion of the proceeds of the Rev. Mr. Lyle's lecture.

Officers.—Mr. Bay was appointed treasurer for the month.

Accounts.—Accounts were passed, and the Board adjourned.

TH, AUGUST 14, 1891

SUBSCRIPTION LIST:

The following amounts have been received towards a subscription being raised to secure the £20 offered by a gentleman in this town for planting the Recreation Ground with native trees:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr J. T. Davis	1	1	0
Mr Newton King	1	1	0
Mr J. Ford	1	1	0
Mr G. Bennett	1	1	0
Mr S. Westman	1	1	0
Mr A. G. Fookes	0	10	0
Mr W. Mow	0	10	0
Mr B. G. Bannister	0	10	0
Anonymous	1	0	0
Mr H. C. Hughes	0	10	0
Dr. Lambton	1	1	0
Mr H. Weston	1	1	0
Friends (through secretary)	5	0	0

TH, AUGUST 20, 1891
MR KIDD TO SUPERVISE PLANTING

The Recreation Board members and Mr. Kidd and Mr. C. Dorsett will meet in the grounds on Friday afternoon for the purpose of selecting a place to plant native shrubs.

TH, AUGUST 20, 1891
PLANT DONATION

Mr. Harris Ford acknowledges a bundle of the named shrub from Mr. J. Elliot, of Nelson.

TH, AUGUST 28, 1891
NATIVE PLANT DONATION

The hon. secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board (Mr. Harris Ford), requests us to acknowledge the receipt of a quantity of native shrubs from Mr. C. M. Kyngdon.

TH, SEPTEMBER 10, 1891

T.R.V. BAND

BEFORE departing will give a
FAREWELL CONCERT
 in the
RECREATION GROUNDS.

This Evening,

Commencing at 7.30.

ADMISSION, 6d.

4180

TH, SEPTEMBER 12, 1891
NATIVE SHRUB PLANTINGS

The work of planting a native shrub plantation in the Recreation Grounds has now taken a definite form. The site for the shrubs is in the gully leading up to the racecourse. On Monday next Mr. Kidd, of Ingham, who will superintend the planting, will make a selection of shrubs for the plantation.

TH, SEPTEMBER 12, 1891
PEACOCKS MISSING

A peacock and pouter, which were presented to the Recreation Grounds by Mrs. Halford some time ago, have been missed from the grounds. As a dog was seen on Wednesday last passing the birds, it is presumed that the animal killed the birds or drove them away. The practice of persons taking dogs with them into the grounds was prohibited by the Board long ago, but despite the caution of the Board dogs were often since then taken into the grounds by persons. Now that further damage has been done by a member of the native race, the Board is determined to prosecute the first person who is found in the grounds with a dog in his following.

MR. J. T. DAVIS FOUND DROWNED IN THE LAKE.

HIS CLOTHES FOUND AT THE BATHING-HOUSE.

FULL DETAILS OF FINDING THE BODY.

Some attention was caused in town early this morning when it became known that Mr James Thomas Davis, house-painter, &c., whose business place is in Devon-street, and private residence in Dawson-street, was found drowned in the Recreation Grounds lake. On enquiry it seems that about 7.30 this morning a gang of prisoners went from the goal to work in the grounds. Mr T. Weber, one of the wardens, perceived some clothes on the verandah of the bathing-house, and seeing no one about he wondered to whom the articles belonged. A few minutes afterwards Masters Harry Beechey and Harry Murray came to bathe in the lake, and, after some conversation with Mr Weber, Master Murray got in a canoe and proceeded round the lake to see if he could perceive anything. On the side of the lake opposite the bathing shed, about ten feet from the bank, young Murray was horrified to see the dead body of a man. The body, which was quite nude, was in an upright position, with the head sticking out of the water. The party then got to work, and pulled the body ashore, and carried it to the bathing shed. Just after the recovery of the body Mrs Davis and Mrs Yates (sister of the deceased) came to the grounds to look for him, as he had not been home. Mr Claffey, caretaker of the grounds, was despatched for Dr O'Connell, who on arrival stated that the body must have been in the water for about six hours. The deceased gentleman left Mrs Yates, whom he had been spending the evening at, about ten o'clock on Thursday night, and as far as known that was the last time he was seen alive. It is thought that, it being light—the moon being at its full—and the evening very warm, Mr Davis, who is fond of the water, had ordered to bathe, and had waded across the lake, when, being seized with cramp in the water, he was drowned. The only articles that were found about the clothes were a letter in connection with lodge work, and a key, presumably the key of his shop.

The deceased gentleman was well-known in the town as one who was always promoting the well-being of the community. He was steward of the Jubilee Club, a Director of the Terranaki Land, Building & Investment Society; Chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board; Superintendent of the Fire Brigade; and a prominent member of the Foresters, at the time of his death. He had been a member of the Jubilee Committee, and also a member of the Borough Council. Mr Davis had always taken the keenest interest in the Recreation Grounds, the "Peel's Bridge," that spans the lake, being built at his individual expense.

The deceased gentleman leaves a widow and two young children to mourn their loss.

The body, which was in charge of the police in the grounds, was removed to the deceased's residence, in Devon-street, between 11 and 12 o'clock.

THE INQUIRY.

An inquest concerning the death of James Thomas Davis was held in the Court-house at 2 o'clock, before C. Russell, Esq., J.P., acting Coroner, and the following jury:—J. Paul (Foreman), Almer King, W. A. King, H. Gilmore, F. Stehr, and J. Partington.

As soon as the inquest was formally opened, the jury retired to view the body, and on returning evidence was taken.

(Continued from column 2.)

Inspector Parry conducted the inquiry. Henry Murray stated he went to the Recreation Grounds about 7 o'clock this morning to bathe. A good number pooled out to him some clothes that were lying on the verandah of the bathing house. Witness with the assistance of one of the prisoners working in the ground got a canoe out, and witness got in it and pulled across the pond from the bathing house. He saw an object which he took to be a bit of wood from a distance, but on pulling up to the object he found a dead body—the body of Mr J. T. Davis. About two inches of the back of the head showed out of the water. The body was speight in the water, and the arms were bent, and the hands were held down. The body was in about 4½ feet of water. He fancied the feet were on the bottom. When he saw the body he called out to the others, H. Beechey got a rope round the body, and they pulled it ashore and carried it round to the bathing house on a board. When he saw the body first it was about eight feet from the bank. The body was quite nude.

Thomas James Weber, gate-keeper, deposed that he took a party of prisoners to work in the Recreation Grounds this (Friday) morning, arriving there about 7.15 a.m. When he got in view of the bathing house he saw some clothes lying on the bathing house verandah. The clothes consisted of coat, vest, trousers, boots, socks, hat, &c. He thought some one was looking, so it was necessary for people to bathe to be early in the morning. He looked round, but could see no one bathing. He asked the other warden round, as he thought the supposed father had someone himself than some ladies who had just come into the grounds. Some time afterwards two lads, Murray and Beechey, came up, and at his suggestion a canoe was got out, and Murray pulled across to the other side, where he found the body. They got the body out and took it to the shed. The body in the water had the appearance of a man in the act of getting out to swim. The face was towards the bank. He should say that the deceased must have been struggling to get ashore, from the protruding position and the general attitude. Witness examined the body, but saw no sign of life. He also tried to resuscitate, but the body was cold and feet came from the mouth. The only mark he saw on the body was blood issuing from the left eye. Witness handed the clothes over to Constable Beely.

Dr O'Connell deposed he saw the body of James Thomas Davis in the Recreation Grounds between 8 and 9 this morning. The body was perfectly naked, and bore all the indications of death by drowning. There was blood coming from the left eyelids, not the eye. The only way he could account for the blood was that decay and must have been crying and rubbing his eyes violently before entering the water. The left ear was congested and black, and the only way he could account for it was that deceased must have been lying down sleeping on something hard before he entered the water. If he was lying down it must have been in close proximity to the place where he was drowned. If he had been lying down in his sleep the blood would have had time to circulate in the ear by the time he got to the grounds. There were no other marks. Life had been extinct six hours when he saw it. Rigor mortis had given way.

By the Coroner: There was an indication of return of camp.

Mrs Yates, widow, deposed that it seemed was her brother. She last saw him alive at 10 o'clock on Thursday night. He spent the evening at her place, and indulged in a glass of whiskey. He said "Good night" in the usual way when he left.

(Proceeding as we went to Press.)

(Continued from First Edition yesterday.)

Mrs Yates' evidence continued:—He left for home she understood. He appeared in his usual temperment, and there was nothing in his manner to call for remark. Mrs Davis came to witness next morning, and said that her husband had not been home all night. They made enquiries and learned he was dead in the Recreation Grounds, where she subsequently saw the body. There was nothing in his manner or conversation on Thursday night to lead her to believe that there was anything wrong. She was not aware that her brother was in the habit of bathing in the Recreation Grounds lake. She knew nothing whatever of his affairs.

By Mr Paul: She did not know that her brother was in the habit of going to the grounds at night. She knew he took a great interest in the grounds, and was fond of going to the grounds for a walk. He was chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, and took great interest in the ground.

By Inspector Parry: Her brother spent a deal of money on the grounds. He built the bridge over the lake.

By the Coroner: She had not heard that her brother could swim.

By Mr Paul: There were some remarks about the closeness of the weather at her place on Thursday night.

Mrs Davis deposed she was the wife of James Thomas Davis. She last saw him alive about twenty minutes to 7 o'clock on Thursday night. He went down town, but did not say where he was going. As a rule he took a walk every evening after tea. She knew nothing at all about his business matters; he was always reserved on this point. His business was all right as far as she knew. She noticed her husband was depressed on Thursday, especially at dinner time, but he appeared all right in the evening. She knew nothing whatever that would lead her husband to commit suicide. Her husband was fond of the Recreation Grounds, and often said that the ground was the only place he lived for. He was in the habit of going to the grounds on an evening, and had been there as late as 8 o'clock, but not since the Jubilee to her knowledge. She believed her husband could not swim, and therefore if he got out of his depth he would be drowned.

By Mr Paul: He was in the habit of visiting the grounds.

Mrs Yates, re-called, stated that she identified the clothes found in the bathing house verandah as the clothes her brother wore on Thursday night.

Alfred James Way, draper's assistant, deposed that about a quarter past 6 o'clock on Friday morning he saw someone to look to be the deceased wading down Tiverton-street, near Dr Christie's. Witness was on the Carrington Road at the time. The person had a cowl, and was travelling in the direction of the grounds. He could not state positively that it was the deceased, but that was the impression formed in his mind.

By Mr Paul: It was an impression that it was Mr Davis he saw, by the general appearance of the person.

Re-examined: He had not been in the grounds that morning.

Sergeant Duffin also gave evidence. He saw to travel with the clothes on in the ground.

Thomas Weber, re-called, stated he saw no towel.

Dr O'Connell, in answer to the Coroner, said he examined the body between 8 and 9 this (Friday) morning, and was certain that life was then extinct about 6 hours.

This was the evidence.

The jury retired, and on returning, brought in the following verdict:—

"The jury are of opinion from the evidence produced that the deceased, James Thomas Davis, went in to bathe in the lake in the Recreation Ground, and was accidentally drowned."

TH, SEPTEMBER 21, 1891

FUNERAL OF THE LATE J. T. DAVIS.

Services of the utmost and respect with which the late Mr J. T. Davis was held in the community was simply given on Sunday when so many friends followed the mortal remains to the grave. About 1 o'clock the fire bells throughout the town were tolled out of respect for the deceased, who was for many years Inspector of the Fire Brigade. The service, which was one of the longest ever seen here, gradually began to form at 1.30, and at about 2 p.m. it started. The Band preceded the hearse, and played the Dead March at intervals on the way to the cemetery. Immediately following the hearse were the members of the Fire Brigade, under Captain Baker, then members of the Order of Foresters of which deceased was a prominent member, marshalled by P.D.C.R. King; then members of kindred lodges, and finally relatives and a long line of friends on foot, driving, and riding. In the line were the most prominent members of the Jockey Club, of which body the deceased gentleman was a steward. Members of the Fire Brigade and Foresters acted as pallbearers. At the grave the Rev. P. W. Fairclough performed the funeral rites; and D.C.R. Kevell read the Foresters' service. The Band played the dirge "Garland of Flowers" over the grave. On returning from the cemetery the Band played two marches.

TH, OCTOBER 6, 1891
PLANTINGS IN THE RECREATION GROUND

During the last few weeks great varieties of native shrubs have been planted in the Recreation Grounds, in addition to the plantation that has been formed in the gully leading to the reservoir. The shrubs were selected by Mr Kild, of Inglewood, who is an expert in such matters.

TH, OCTOBER 12, 1891
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At the Recreation Grounds Board meeting on Friday night last the following resolution was carried:—"That the members of the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds Board desire to place on record their sense of the public loss sustained by the death of their late colleague and chairman, Mr J. T. Davis, whose valuable services and generous gifts to the ground will be held in kindly remembrance by the community." The Board also passed a vote of thanks to Mr C. W. G-reath (for donation of £20 for native shrub plantation), to Miss Dewarish, and Messrs J. Ellis, C. Kyngdon, M. Sutherland, J. Windsor, H. Ayles, and Conolly (for native shrub donations), and to Mr F. Calgher (for trap live).

TH, OCTOBER 13, 1891

PLANTATION IN RECREATION GROUND.

The following is a list of the varieties of native shrubs obtained from all parts of the Provincial District, which have been planted in the Recreation Grounds during September last:—115 1/2 oz cabbage tree, 15 mountain tot, 75 manuka (maki), 120 horehore or hance wood, 130 taraia, 110 Raurimu, 40 wharangi (puka), 142 manarua (Pentstemon), 175 akaka or tapitapi, 109 karahana, 1 aroia, 50

kahikaha or uohara, 125 taraia, 100 kakaia (puka), 60 rima (red pine), 30 kahikaha (white pine), 33 aroia, 20 hina, 12 punaewhiti (the white fern), 20 howland (yellow), 12 Pines of Waiau Southair ferns, 1 parapea or Miflora tree, 5 mountain pine also packet of seed, 5 puka (parakee), 100 karahana, 50 taraia, 2 rata, 15 akaka, 40 manuka, 40 puka, 20 aroia, 212 pariri, 1 stagsville of New Zealand, 12 spear grass (wild Eriophora?), 248 shrubs from the ranges, of different varieties, 170 aroia (red bark), 225 horehore. Total 2315, native shrubs, &c. The Board have still £20 left, and in the autumn they intend to plant more shrubs in the plantation, which occupies the old strawberry hot site.

TH, OCTOBER 26, 1891
SPORTS GROUND—GRASS SOWN

The warm and genial weather lately experienced has had a wonderful effect on the grass seed with which the sports track in the Recreation Grounds was laid down a short time ago. The whole area of the ground is now covered with the young grass, which appears to thrive vigorously in the soil.

TH, OCTOBER 28, 1891
COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS

Mr Harris Ford, hon. secretary to the Recreation Grounds Board, has had the following headed to him by Mr Cutler, of the Coburn Hotel:—Subscriptions in aid of beautifying New Plymouth Recreation Grounds. A resident of the town having volunteered to give the sum of twenty pounds towards the above, provided a similar amount was subscribed by the public, we, the undersigned commercial travellers, who are in the habit of visiting the district, and have frequently derived much pleasure from a visit to these grounds, desire to have the privilege of subscribing our mite towards the object in view.—T. Mitchell, 2s 6d; H. Fraser, 2s 6d; Phil. Magan, 2s 6d; J. M. North, 2s 6d; H. Haughton, 2s 6d; Chas. Ayles, 2s 6d; Mr J. Ruxton, 2s 6d; Solomon, 2s 6d; A. Higgins, 2s 6d; G. M. Brown, 2s 6d; Mr Moore, 2s 6d; A. Davies, 2s 6d; Mac Russell, 2s 6d; John, 2s 6d; W. H. Davis, 2s 6d; Walsland, 2s 6d; R. Anderson, 2s 6d; W. Jarratt, 2s 6d; C. A. Brown, 2s 6d; Thos. Skilton, 2s 6d; Mr S. Griffiths, 2s 6d; Mr B. Burtie, 2s 6d.

TH, NOVEMBER 7, 1891
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board held on Friday night, a donation of two flags and poles from Mrs J. T. Davis was acknowledged with thanks; Mr Smith, of Auckland, who offered a man to the Board, had been asked, the hon. secretary stated, to put the lowest price on the bird, but no reply had been received; and it was decided to ask the Borough Council to let the Board have at a nominal rent the heads of the gullies leading to the reservoir, and that the Jockey Club be approached on the same matter.

TH, DECEMBER 21, 1891
STEREOSCOPIC PICTURES OF REC

Mr W. A. Collie has just imported a stereoscopic camera, with which he is taking views of scenery in the districts. He has commenced with the Recreation Grounds, and has already taken some very pretty views, which should meet with a speedy sale.

TH, DECEMBER 31, 1891

FLOWERS FOR RECREATION GROUND.

TO THE BOARD.

Sir,—I would ask those who have balls of the commoner kinds of narcissus, daffodils, wild hyacinths, and bellflowers, like to dig up some, and set them aside before the dry leaves have disappeared altogether, and their position is forgotten; as a motion will be brought forward at the next meeting of the Board, advocating the planting of these on the grassy slopes leading to the ornamental water in the Recreation Grounds. All the bulbs I have mentioned will grow freely even when surrounded with grass, and the expense of planting will be very slight. No doubt many of your readers are aware that this kind of planting is done in the London parks in irregular patches, and adds greatly to their beauty. In the proper season a walk will probably be made on the public for plants of common rhododendrons, azaleas, &c., with the same object.—I am, &c.,

A MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

1892

Clement Govett was appointed to the Board at the beginning of the year to replace James Davis who had unfortunately drowned in September 1891. Govett was a prominent member of the community, had donated liberally to the Recreation Ground and was a founding member of the Swimming Club.

A system of annual subscriptions was introduced, set at 10s, this granted the subscribers free entry to all entertainment of any kind in the ground throughout the year.

An initiative to help the Board maintain the grounds and to beautify them was to invite people to take charge of small areas set aside as flower beds. The first do so were Mrs Hursthouse and Mrs Weyergang but more followed including Central School. This had been tried earlier but unfortunately when the sports field was extended some of the flower beds were removed.

The head of the main lake was modified to strengthen the dam and to increase the width of the promenade in front of the Band Rotunda. This removed the point at the northern end of the lake that can be seen on Skinner's map of 1880.

With the constant improvements to the sports field New Plymouth Cricket club approached the Board wanting to use the field for cricket. The request was granted, and a cricket pitch laid. The first match was played in December.

Archibald Hood approached the Board with the intent of planting a maze in the Recreation Ground. Hood had arrived in new Plymouth in 1861 as a Sergeant-Major in the Royal Artillery and retired following his tour of duty. He was a poet and author of short stories. The Board, always keen to improve the grounds especially if someone was willing to do the work, accepted his offer. The maze, coil shaped, constructed of 3—4000 Box-thorn plants was planted somewhere between the southern end of the main lake and the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground. The maze would become a thorn in the side of the Board and was removed after a few years.

Plant donations included: Mr Duncan, two Norfolk Island pines. Mr Fennell, an Azalea. Mr J. Wheeler, ferns of *Todea superba* (Prince of Wales Feather) and constable Hickman, cabbage trees. The Norfolk Island pines are still present in the Park, one located near the old curator's office/sports ground and the other adjacent to The Poet's Bridge.

Summary of significant events

- Mr C. W. Govett appointed to the Board to replace James Davis.
- North end of main lake being modified (rounded off) to make promenade wider in front of Bandstand.
- Public invited to take charge of flower beds. Mrs Hursthouse first to offer.
- Cricketers lay down first cricket wicket.
- Mr Archibald Hood plants a maze of 3 - 4,000 Boxthorn plants.
- First cricket match played on the Sports Ground pitch.



Sports day, circa 1895. A series of ten hurdles can be seen running diagonally across lawn. Next to the hurdles there appears to be running lanes marked out by string. At that time the area of the lawn was considerably less than it is today and maybe the reason the track was set out diagonally. The hurdle races were 120 yards long. (Puke Ariki ARC2003-859/3)

TH, JANUARY 12, 1892
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Cook, Corhill, Grewitt, Ray, Skinner, and Ford.

Chairman.—Mr Ray, in the absence of Mr Haglan, was voted to the chair.

Apptment.—The Government notified the appointment of Mr C. W. Grewitt in place of the late Mr J. T. Davis.

Trustee.—Mr Cook was appointed trustee to represent the Board on the Athletic Sports Committee in place of Mr J. T. Davis.

Monday.—It was decided that Mr N. King be requested to fence off the Hableworth Road in accordance with agreement under which he was allowed to make the carriage entrance, as animals trespassing are doing considerable damage to the grounds.

Annual Tickets.—It was decided, "That subject to arrangements with the Sports Committee annual tickets be issued for 10s, entitling the holder to free admission to all entertainments in the grounds."

Improvements.—The Board decided that circular be drawn up pointing out the importance of the Board having regular subscribers and a more certain income if the public desire that the improvements in the grounds should be continued.

Donations.—It was decided in addition for donations of balls, rackets, &c.

Groomer.—Mr Ford was appointed groomer for the month.

Accounts were passed, and the Board adjourned.

TH, FEBRUARY 8, 1892
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

RECREATION GROUND BOARD.
 This Board met on Friday last. Present: Messrs Haglan (chairman), Corhill, Cook, Grewitt, Skinner, Ray, and Ford.

Sports Track.—A deputation of the Sports Committee consisting of Messrs W. H. Stinson, J. B. Ray, and F. Watson, waited on the Board relative to the issue of the annual 10s tickets. After discussion it was decided "That in consideration of the Sports Committee waiting all claims to compensation for loss of revenue by reason of the issue of annual tickets the Board undertake to expend later to the value of £10 in taking care of the Sports Ground." It was also decided to amend a resolution in order to permit the Sports Committee to let the right of holding matches, &c., for a large sum, provided such sum is devoted to improving the ground.

Fence With Bars.—It was decided to offer no objection to Mr Carter erecting a fence with bars across Gilbert-street. It was also decided to ask him to make an offer for the yearly taxancy of two sections facing Gilbert-street.

Provision.—It was decided to prosecute persons who plucked the water pipes, or who took dogs into the Grounds.

Unlawfully Used.—The Board decided to throw the Hableworth Road open unless Mr N. King fulfill his arrangement with regard to the entrance to the Grounds from Hableworth Road within two weeks from date.

Use of Money.—An application for increase of money from the proceeds will be considered at next meeting.

Groomer.—Mr Haglan was appointed groomer.

The balance sheet was adopted, accounts passed, and the Board adjourned.

TH, FEBRUARY 12, 1892
PLANT REQUESTS

THE Recreation Grounds Board are extremely anxious to keep on year after year improving the Grounds systematically, and at present are desirous of planting flowering bushes, shrubs, and plants, that will flourish in a soil-wind state without much attention. The regular income of the Board is only £40 per annum, and it is doubtful that unless this is increased nothing can be done in the direction proposed.

The public are invited to take Annual Tickets (price 10s) entitling the holder to free admission to all entertainments of any kind held in the Grounds.

For the Board,
HARRIS FORD,
 Secy, Secretary.

NAMES OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.
 GEORGE HARRIS, Mrs C. HARVEY, H. COOK, Mrs R. COOK, G. K. DENNEY, S. B. WHITE, H. H. CUTLER, H. WINTON, Mrs H. WINTON, G. CARTER, David TAYLOR, Thomas HEMPTON, Wm. GOTTIE, H. B. LEATHLEY, Mrs LEATHLEY, A. DUNCAN, Geo. F. P. CORHILL, Walter ARBUTHNOT, W. D. WEBSTER, W. L. ROBERTSON, J. B. RAY, Mrs C. W. GREWITT, G. W. THORNTON, THOS. A. RAY, Mrs ANNESTON GAWTH, F. J. O'CONNOR, Mrs O'CONNOR, W. W. CHRISTIE, A. GOLDWATER, G. H. MORRILL, Mrs NEWTON KING, NEWTON KING, S. FRASER, T. KING.

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W. WALKER, A. G. FRODEN, Mrs FRODEN, J. C. GEORGE, J. O'BRIEN, B. PARRIS, Mrs PARRIS.

Mrs ROBERTSON, T. A. MURPHY, JON. BENTON.

T. J. JAMES, Mrs THOS. COLEMAN, R. GRIFFITH, D. HABLEWORTH, Mrs D. HABLEWORTH, T. J. JOHN.

J. G. ARCHER, W. COHEN, Mrs H. A. WALKER.

TH, APRIL 16, 1892
EASTER SPORTS DAY PROGRAMME

EASTER MONDAY SPORTS.
 (By "BANK.")

A good deal of interest is being manifested by local athletes over the athletic sports, which take place on the Recreation Ground track on Monday. These gatherings have proved exceedingly successful in the past, and the forthcoming one will, I am confident, prove an exception to the popularity in which the meetings have hitherto been held. The track is in much better condition than it was at the last meeting, and competitors (especially the bicyclists) will therefore be able to do much better than. Mr H. H. KIRK, the Club's handicapper, has declared handicaps for 10 events, & it is anticipated that on the ground the work of selecting winners is made a difficult task. The following tips, however, may not be far out—

- 100 YARDS—Dorothy Ford, W. Bayly
- SEVENHUNDRED (200 yards)—G. Webster, Fook, Eble
- HALF MILE—Toby Ford, Mary

- ONE MILE—George Gilbert, McAlley
- 440 YARDS—Jonas Donnelly, Norton
- 120 YARDS HURDLES—W. Webster "Richards" A. Bayly
- ONE MILE (220 yards)—G. Webster, Jonas, Eble
- 25 YARDS—Dorothy, Jonas, Toby
- SEVENHUNDRED (1 mile)—George, Robert, John
- SEVENHUNDRED (2 miles)—John, Toby, Rowell

I have been informed that there is "hot coffee" in the Terrace, and as "Richards" has been put 2 yards behind Webster, I suppose he must be the hero.

Mr Adolph Galtwater, I might add, has been successful in his efforts to arrange all preliminaries.

A great deal of dissatisfaction has been expressed over the practice of several competitors at the sports adopting unassured means. At the forthcoming sports in the Recreation Grounds some dozen competitors have announced under assumed names for reasons that are not sufficient for doing so. It is understood that the Sports Committee intend to expose the practice in the future, and if they do their action will be cordially endorsed by the majority of the public who take an interest in athletic gatherings.

The gold medal for the competitor who scores the most points in certain events at the Easter Monday Sports will be presented to the winner during an interval in the Galtwater Club performance on Monday night.

It is reported that a competitor, who was very successful at the recent Inghelwood and Stratford Sports, did not send in his full performance with his nomination, and that a medal medal all by him at one of these gatherings has been withheld pending enquiries.

The benches will be reserved for ladies, for whose convenience the seats have been erected round the track.

TH, APRIL 19, 1892
SPORTS DAY REVIEW

Committee: Messrs R. G. Bannocks, R. B. Ray, H. Ainsworth, R. Harpdrives, W. H. Skinner, J. H. Inghelwood, D. Duncroft, W. Bennett, Adolph Galtwater, F. Watson, R. H. Kivell, T. Fookler, jun., G. W. Bennett, T. A. Harper, W. Perry, C. T. Mills, F. Jackson, J. Kirk, T. E. Skinner, H. Ford, R. A. M. Bathurst, A. J. Palmer, Judge Henry H. H. Bury, H. G. Bannocks, and H. Duncroft. **Starter:** Mr J. H. Lightfoot. **Handicapper:** Mr H. H. Kivell.

The Recreation Grounds Athletic Club's Annual Sports were off on Easter Monday in the presence of a crowd which may have numbered over 2000 people. Despite the rough weather prevailing during last

west, and up to a late hour on Sunday night. Monday morning broke beautifully fine, and thanks to the high wind which continued to blow during the early part of the day, the ground was dried up, and by the time the first race was started, was in a fair condition for running. Great satisfaction was expressed on all hands at the improvements carried out by the club, notably in the rail fencing off the track from the pathway and the benches; the seats provided on the eastern terrace also proved a great convenience on account of the damp state of the turf. The whole of the arrangements in connection with the meeting were admirably carried out by the committee, Mr Ad. Goldwater, the hon. secretary, working most assiduously to bring about the success achieved. Mr R. H. Kivall's handicapping met with very general satisfaction, as was evidenced by the number of acceptances and the close finishes. Mr J. M. Light got his men away on every occasion to good starts, some of them being really excellent. Messrs Hainhope, Hopley, and W. H. Skinner divided the duties of judging, and their decisions were unquestioned. The only game on the ground was Butterworth's "Pigeon Pool." The boat on the lake was well patronized by the youngsters. The Temperance Band, under Bandmaster Howell, followed the proceedings with music at intervals, which, it was remarked, were none too short. Mr C. H. Serrall did good business at the refreshment booth, and would have little trouble in making away the surplus of what he provided.

TH, APRIL 20, 1892
SCHOOLS TO BE ASKED TO PLANT FLOWER BEDS

We understand that at the next meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board a proposal will be made that the Board should dig some five or six beds of ground, and visit them among the different schools, who will be asked to plant flowers and shrubs in them at their own discretion, and to keep their respective gardens in good order. It is hoped that this will create a healthy rivalry as possibly it will be arranged that a prize should be given for the best kept garden. We feel sure that if the Board can collect the sympathies of the children the grounds will become more and more popular. It is believed too that the Board contemplates having a "working bee" to get rid of a good many of the useless plants which at present are choking clover trees, and also if as "Arthur Day" is appointed we should like to see an effort made to utilize one of the Thursday afternoons by having some public planting and clearing done, of course, under the supervision of the Board. We shall be glad to receive opinions relative to these schemes of helping the Board by suggesting, and are satisfied, from what we know of the Board, that they will welcome the assistance and advice of the public, whose business they are.

TH, APRIL 22, 1892
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

RECREATION GROUND BOARD.
At the last meeting of this Board, when there were present Messrs Hughes (chairman), Gerratt, Cook, and Ford (hon sec), the following business was transacted:—
Contractor's Salary.—The Contractor's salary was raised for a month to from April 1.
Resign.—Mr Baker notified that he would not take up the Board's notice in regard to...

The Snow.—The Board finally declined to buy the snow from Mr Smith, of Auckland, and decided to thank him for keeping the matter of purchase open so long.
Steel Concrete.—The Board acceded to an application of the Town Board to hold evening concerts in the Theatre, on condition that the proceeds were divided, and that in future the Board would assist in supplying to the gates.
Admission.—It was decided, "That notice be sent to each member of the Board that in future the provisions of sec 5 of the Act, disqualifying members for absence from three consecutive meetings of the Board without leave, be strictly enforced."
Secretary.—Mr Hoy was appointed our sec for the month.
The Board adjourned.

TH, MAY 4, 1892
LAKE HEAD TO BE MODIFIED

The large pond in the Recreation Ground is now being drained in order that improvements may be effected at "the hatchway," which is situated in front of the head rotunda. It is intended to raise the level of the pond off at this spot, which will naturally broaden the promenade that runs along here. It is intended to concrete the side of the lake at this spot, and in order to properly carry out this work the pond is now being drained.

TH, MAY 9, 1892
FLOWER BEDS ETC

The Recreation Grounds Board continue to make efforts towards improving the grounds with praiseworthy zeal. Besides inviting each of the schools in the town to take charge of a garden bed, and to plant it and keep it in order, they also ask the general public to do the same, undertaking on their part to do the rough digging necessary in the first instance. It may be seen to some of our readers that a few years ago several ladies took charge of a portion of the grounds, and kept it well supplied with flowers. This garden, however, had to be cleared away when the agents' protest was laid out. Death and other causes have made gaps in the ranks of these generous workers, and at present with the exception of a few few friends who have taken the factory at the waterfall in hand, no gratuitous help is given. It is well known that those who have gardens generally find that when clearing up they have a surplus of nice flowering plants and bulbs, which they would be glad to devote to some good use, and if a few energetic people can be found to take the matter in hand, we are sure the public beds will not want for material. We regret to hear that the Board are forced to incur a large expenditure in strengthening the dam, which will pretty nearly exhaust all their funds, and it is for this reason that they are again calling upon the public to help them with work as well as money. The Board had hoped to have spent freely in planting, and through a good deal has been done in the way of planting out patches of sweet-wild flowers, which will look very bright in the summer, yet the grounds are so large that there is always more to be done than the Board can manage. It should be the endeavour of us all to help to make the Recreation Grounds more and more beautiful and attractive, and to do this variety is necessary, and the strong contrasts of well-kept beds, culture and Baroque grass, and wild flowers intermixed.

TH, MAY 9, 1892
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday. Present: Messrs Hughes (chairman), Skinner, Gerratt, Hoy and Harris (sec).
Leave.—Leave of absence from the meeting was granted to Messrs Cook and Gerratt.
Concrete work at pond.—It was resolved that the plan submitted by Mr Sanderson for concrete work at the hatch, and carrying out the concrete job to be accepted, and to be requested to call for tenders for the work.
Leave.—An offer from Mr Grayson to lease sections in Gilbert-street was declined, but the Board would be willing to let them from year to year at 10s per year.
Thanks.—The thanks of the Board were tendered to the following for donations of bulbs and plants:—Messrs G. Andrews, C. Kingston, B. Julian, and A. Douglas; and Messrs E. W. Shaw, Gals, B. Somers, G. Dennis, and J. Cohen.
Secretary.—Mr Skirney was appointed secretary for the month.
Thanks.—Mr D. Coffey, contractor, wrote a letter of thanks for increase of wages.
Sale of Work.—It was decided to send a copy of a letter read in the local meeting of the Town Council. This letter stated that the Board had decided to set apart a portion of the grounds for the purpose of gardens, and it was thought that each of the public schools would be willing to take charge of a bed. The Board agreed to do the rough work, such as digging, and to allot a bed to each school on condition that the school was responsible for planting the same and keeping it neat and tidy for one year at least. The Board pointed out that they did not wish to interfere with school work in suggesting the matter.
The Board adjourned.

TH, MAY 11, 1892
CARRIAGE TRACK PROPOSED

Several suggestions have been made to members of the Recreation Grounds Board recently that the construction of a carriage drive round the grounds would be a great improvement and a boon to motorists. One gentleman in particular has proposed that he will give a substantial donation if the project were undertaken, and other gentlemen have expressed willingness to subscribe. In view of these promises of support the Board have decided to consider the matter, and carry it out if practicable.

TH, MAY 12, 1892
TENDER FOR LAKE MODIFICATIONS

TO BUILDERS.

TENDERS will be received at my Office, till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 17th inst, for Concrete Work for Recreation Grounds Board; lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

JAS. SANDERSON,
Architect.

King's Buildings
May 10th, 1892

TH, MAY 13, 1892
GARDEN BED PLANTING

RECREATION GROUNDS.

THE public are invited to take charge of and plant a few garden beds, which will be dug by the Board. Those willing to join together for this purpose will greatly oblige by communicating at once with the Secretary, in order that the planting season may be taken advantage of.

HARRIS FORD,
Hon. Secretary.

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TH, MAY 21, 1892
FIRST FLOWER BED ORGANISED

We understand that Mrs Harroldson has kindly consented to take charge of, and with the assistance of some friends to plant one of the new public garden beds in the Recreation Grounds.

TH, JUNE 4, 1892
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The usual monthly meeting of the trustees of the Recreation Grounds was held last evening. Present: Messrs T. E. Skinner, H. Cook, F. F. Corhill, H. Ford (hon. sec.), R. C. Hughes. In the absence of the Chairman, Mr Cook was requested to preside until Mr Hughes' arrival at 7.50.

Course of Grounds.—The Overseer for the past month (Mr Skinner) reported on work done in the grounds, and handed in the 6d taken from the contribution boxes at the Criterion and White Hart hotels and the pavilion.

Children's Flower Beds.—In reply to the Board's invitation to the schools of the town, Miss Shaw (West Infants) and Miss Smith (St Mary's) reported their inability to undertake the care of flower beds in the grounds.

Ladies' Flower Beds.—The Secretary reported that Mrs C. W. Harroldson and Mrs Weyergang had taken charge of plots, and that Mr G. Dorman had presented two nice specimens of Norfolk Island pines, Mr Farnell a choice azalea, and that Mrs Wm. Bayly had sent a liberal donation of bulbs.

Improvements.—It was decided to make improvements at the Carrington Road entrance, and to plant masses of native shrubs.

Inspection of Grounds.—The members agreed to make a general inspection of Grounds on Thursday, June 16th.

Bank Account.—The Bank book showed a balance of £2 12s 1d, and the Treasurer reported liabilities to the amount of £40, chiefly for the work now being done.

Overseer for Month.—Mr Skinner was requested to act as overseer for another month, in order that the work now in hand might be completed under his management.

Bathing Board.—It was decided to replace the spring board, trusting to bathers to occupy the cavity.

Boat Shed.—A discussion took place as to the erection of a shed for the protection of the dingy and the lifeboat lost by Mr Corhill, but the matter was held over for lack of funds.

The Board then rose.

TH, JUNE 9, 1892
CRICKET AND RUGBY TO BE
ALLOWED

On Tuesday night, delegates from the local football and cricket clubs, met the committee who have the management of the Sports Ground in the Recreation House. The question to be settled was whether football and cricket would be allowed on the ground. It was decided to allow the New Plymouth Cricket Club to play all matches and practice on the ground; but it was resolved with respect to football inter-club, inter-school, and cup matches to be played on the ground, but no practice. The cricketers intend to lay down a pitch for next season.

TH, JULY 9, 1892
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Recreation Ground Board was held on Friday evening. Present:—Messrs Hughes (chairman), Grevitt, Ford, and Corhill.

Garden Plots.—A letter was received from Mr Dempsey, Head Master of the Central School, accepting the Board's invitation to his pupils to take charge of a plot. The Secretary reported that no reply had been received from the High School. Resolved that the thanks of the Board be tendered to Mrs Harroldson, Mrs Weyergang, and Messrs Dempsey and R. Veale for their co-operation.

Donations of Plants, &c.—A vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs Deacon, Mr W. Corhill (Mrs Yale, Stratford), H. Arden, H. Goodham, and S. Gals, for donations of plants, shrubs, &c., and to Mr Joe Harker for free carriage.

Committee Appointed.—Messrs Grevitt, Ford, and Corhill were appointed a Committee to inspect and report upon a section belonging to the Board, at present occupied by Mr Dingley.

Acquisition of Land.—A letter was received inquiring as to a piece of land near Mr Gilbert's house, and was held over for further particulars.

Trees and Shrubs from the Whangarei Nurseries.—It was decided to apply for a grant of trees, &c., from the Government Experimental Nurseries at Whangarei.

Accounts.—Accounts amounting to £29 12s 1d were passed for payment. The Secretary reported about £29 further liabilities, and no money in hand.

Overseer for Month.—Mr Skinner was asked to act as overseer during the current month.

Flag of War.—It was decided to hold a special meeting to arrange for the holding of a Flag of War.

Flowers.—Mr Corhill was asked to make arrangements for the importation from England of another shipment of flowers.

TH, JULY 21, 1892
FERN DONATION

Mr Harris Ford, hon. secretary of the Recreation Grounds, begs to acknowledge a donation of ferns (*Polka Separis*) from Mr J. Wheeler, of Darton Road.

TH, SEPTEMBER 5, 1892
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Hughes (chairman), Corhill, Grevitt, Ford, and Cook.

Plans.—Mr Ford visited on the Board and submitted a plan for a "mass," which he and others prop and to set in the grounds.—The Board accepted the suggestion, and decided to offer Mr Ford and those interested every facility to carry the idea into execution.

An Exchange.—The Board decided to consider any offer Mr A. C. Fother's will make for an exchange of a piece of land on the Carrington Road.

Giving Ferns.—Mr Williams, of Carrington Road, will be so kind to clear ferns off land belonging to the Board.

Cabbage Trees.—Gentle Harkness, of Pungarewa, was thanked for a donation of cabbage trees.

Giving Notice.—It was decided to give a notice of one 1002 notice to go, one month from date of service.

Leave of Absence.—Leave of absence was granted to Mr Skinner from the meeting.

Concurrence.—Mr Skinner will be requested to prepare conveyance of section from Mr Hingle to the Board.

The Board adjourned.

TH, SEPTEMBER 12, 1892
PEACOCK KILLED

The peacock, a present admitted by every visitor to the Recreation Grounds, was killed on Saturday night by a raptorial dog. The bird was found half eaten on Monday morning, and feathers were strewn round the place where the remains were found.

TH, SEPTEMBER 12, 1892
PLANTINGS IN THE GROUNDS

TO THE BUDGET.

Ed.—The public has responded very liberally to the request of the Recreation Grounds Board for help, &c., and the effects of their liberality is already beginning to be apparent, for in many places you can see patches of colour in the shape of beds that will bloom later on. Now many new plants have been set, and much new ground opened up that hitherto was bare boggy, and still there is room for more flowers of a hardy character that will grow in grass and under trees. It is too late this season to plant out such seeds, but I want those who have gardens to note what is particularly lovely and pretty with a view to giving to the Board later on in the autumn, and to put in marks where clumps of bulbs such as wild hyacinths are growing, so as to know exactly where to look for them when they rise above. There must be many persons who have perennials, white anemones, nasturtium rhododendrons, white and blue flags; plants of known hardiness and beauty, and the observant can easily add to the list, and spare roots, which in the aggregate will make a great show without being costly.

I feel certain that by thus contributing the general public will learn to take more interest in the Grounds, and be able to give valuable suggestions to the Board. Possibly the Board may have made mistakes, particularly in some of the late plantings, but surely over and is better than under-planting, and this I trust the Board will be not accused of, and besides nature will, in course of time, strike some of the ugly plants.—I am, &c.,

MURRAY DE VEE BEAUM.

TH, SEPTEMBER 15, 1892
CRICKET PITCH LAID

NEW PLYMOUTH CRICKET CLUB
The annual meeting of the New Plymouth Cricket Club was held at the White Hart Hotel on Wednesday night. There was a good attendance, Mr. T. A. Murphy being in the chair.

BALANCE SHEET.—The balance-sheet showed a small credit, but there are outstanding liabilities amounting to £10 the Club, however, is in a good position, as there are assets amounting in value to about £20, and in addition the Club have laid down a new pitch in the Recreation Grounds, at a cost of £100. The financial position of the Club was considered satisfactory by the meeting, and the balance-sheet was adopted.

TH, OCTOBER 6, 1892
MAZE PROGRESSING

It will be remembered that some time ago Mr. A. Hood interested himself in making "a maze," an intricate walk formed by planting a hedge in a call-shape, in the Recreation Grounds. Permission was obtained from the Recreation Grounds Board to carry out the work, and Mr. Hood went out to work to accomplish the project. Under Mr. Hood's supervision "a maze" of box trees (between 2000 and 4000 trees being used) has been made towards the head of the gully above the lake. In a few years this work should prove a special attraction to the grounds.

TH, OCTOBER 10, 1892
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs H. C. Hughes (chairman), Cook, Corbitt, Goyett, Ray, Skinner, and Ford.

Proceeding Section.—It was decided that the Secretary be instructed to take such steps as may be necessary to obtain possession of Section No. 1182, now occupied by Mr. Hoyle, and, if necessary, to employ a solicitor.

Aquatic Sports.—It was resolved that Messrs Hughes, Cook, and Goyett be a committee to organize a Swimming Club, with a view to holding Aquatic Sports in the lake.

Chairman.—The members agreed that Mr. T. K. Skinner be chairman for the coming year.

Thanks.—It was decided that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the retiring chairman (Mr. Hughes), for his energy and the interest he has taken in the Board during his term of office.

Secretary.—Mr. Corbitt was appointed secretary for the coming month.

Contributions.—The sum of 1/6 1/2 was collected from the three contribution boxes for the month.

The Board adjourned.

TH, OCTOBER 17, 1892
NEW SWIMMING CLUB FORMED

The inaugural meeting of those interested in forming a Swimming Club for the purpose of holding aquatic sports in the Recreation Grounds was held on Saturday night. Mr. H. Cook was in the chair, and after discussion it was decided to form a Club, and the following were appointed a Committee:—Messrs H. Cook, W. C. Skinner, & W. Shaw. H. Ford, H. Harcourt, A. Harwood, H. Harrison, E. Price, Laver, A. Lee, Harvey, J. Harvey, A. Oker.

Batterworth, J. Hansen, J. Hetherford, and W. Kirby. Messrs Hughes, Goyett, Harvey, Goyett, and Harcourt were appointed a sub-committee to draw up rules and submit them to a general meeting. The sub-committee met afterwards and appointed Mr. A. J. Goyett secretary.

TH, NOVEMBER 5, 1892
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Skinner (chairman), Goyett, Ray, Corbitt, Hughes, Ford, and Cook.

Sunday Concerts.—A letter was received from Mr. A. C. Peckham, and also a petition from 44 subscribers to the grounds asking the Board to grant the T.R.V. Band permission to play musical music in the grounds on Sunday afternoons. After discussion it was decided to grant the permission asked, on condition that no charge be made at the gate or collection made in the grounds. An understanding that the concerts should not be started earlier than 3.30 o'clock was lost.

Possession of Section.—Mr. Goyett and the hon. secretary were appointed a committee to instruct Mr. Harwood to take immediate proceedings to obtain possession of sec 1182, now occupied by Mr. Hoyle.

Licence.—It was decided to change an annual licence fee of 1s for each boat on the lake, conditionally that the licence might be withdrawn if it was found that the boats were injured, and also that the boats be not used after 8 a.m. on Sunday.

Shelter.—It was resolved that steps be at once taken in conjunction with the Athletic Club to provide cover for the two boats.

Boat charges.—The custodian was instructed to charge 2s 6d per hour for the large and 1s for the small boat to anyone requiring them.

Boating Shed.—The Swimming Club were given the charge of the boating shed and requisites during the season.

Boating Licences.—The Board decided to adhere to their terms with Mr. W. Dingle with respect to an exchange of land near the Clarendon Road entrance, and decided to modify them.

Tree cutting.—It was resolved that before any more of trees or change of trees in a conspicuous position be cut down the necessity for doing so be decided by the Board.

Repairs.—The hon. secretary was instructed to recover the value of the van destroyed by two boys the other day, or to make them replace the destroyed property.

Travelling Lads.—The postmaster was instructed to visit the grounds and inspect all cattle grazing in the grounds or at large on the roads adjoining.

Contribution Box 1.—Mr. Skinner handed over 4s 4d, received through the contribution boxes.

Secretary.—Mr. Ford was appointed secretary for the month.

The Board adjourned.

TH, NOVEMBER 7, 1892
MAORI CANOE OFFERED TO BOARD

The Recreation Grounds Board have been offered a Maori canoe called "Huturangi" at a reasonable price. As the canoe is a valuable relic of old Taranaki, there is every reason to believe that the Board will secure it for use on the lake.

TH, NOVEMBER 7, 1892
BOATSHED BRIDGE OFFER

The Recreation Grounds Board have received an offer from a local gentleman to superintend the work of building a new bridge at the top end of the lake. The gentleman has submitted a plan of the bridge to the Board, who, it is understood, intend to accept the offer if they can see their way clear to go on with the work. If the work is decided on, prison labor will be utilized in building the structure.

TH, NOVEMBER 7, 1892
JUVENILE SPORTS DAY

The Sports Committee have reluctantly to give up the idea of a Baby Show for one of the events to come off on the 9th. The Judges selected by the Committee, two well-known localities, and also members of the Recreation Board, could not be prevailed upon to face the ordeal of such a gathering.

Children attending the sports in the Recreation Grounds on the 6th November will have plenty of amusement to choose from. The boat on the lake will be as before the great attraction (under the command of Messrs Jump and Stockman). Mr. Batterworth has lent a merry-go-round for the benefit of the very small ones. Added to this, Messrs M. Schmalz and G. W. Hanson have undertaken to keep the biggest race course by such games as "Splitting the Coconut," "Aunt Baby," etc., etc.

TH, NOVEMBER 10, 1892

THE JUVENILE SPORTS

In the Recreation Grounds were not at all well patronised, the wet weather being the cause of the poor attendance. The Committee, however, carried out the programme with persevering assiduous and promptitude, the majority of the events being got off. The meeting, unfortunately, on account of the sparse patronage, will result in a deficit. All the officers worked hard to make matters run smoothly, especially the hon. sec., Mr. W. H. Skinner, who carried out his various duties with commendable zeal. A number of games were run on the ground, the material for several of these amusements being kindly lent by Mr. J. Batterworth. Mr. Birch had charge of a shooting gallery, which appeared to command a fair amount of public patronage. There was also boating on the lake for children, and many other forms of amusements were provided for the youngsters which would take too much space to particularise. One slight accident occurred during the day in a lad named Harry Sampson, who injured his leg by coming in contact with a fence in the blundered race. A pleasant feature of the day was the excellent music discoursed by the T.R.V. Band, under Mr. G. Garry.

The most amusing of the minor events was the coconut competition, in which the competitors were a rank, and arrayed to set down with a real coilow coconut suspended by a string.

TH, DECEMBER 14, 1892
FIRST CRICKET MATCH

The cricket pitch in the Recreation Grounds will be played on for the first time to-morrow, when teams of the New Plymouth Club representing East and West ends will play a match.

1893

In March the bones of a baleen whale that had been beached near Tataraimaka arrived at the Recreation Ground. Cannon Hill had been recently beautified, paths cut into the face of the hill and the cannons placed on top. The bones adorned the Cannon Hill and remnants can still be found today.

A long standing and controversial issue in the park has been the cutting down of pine trees. The culling of the early plantings started as soon as the 1890's.

Dogs in the Recreation Ground had been an issue from the start, there had been several instances where dogs had killed birds that had been donated. Threats of shooting dogs and prosecuting owners had not been a deterrent so finally it was decided to go through with the threat. The first notable case was that of Newton King, the second that of F. P. Corkill. Corkill, a member of the Board was charged with having a dog in his following in the Recreation Ground. The unusual aspect of this case was that the complainant was Richard Cock who was also a member of the Board at the time.

In one of the court cases relating to dogs the judge asked a board member. "Why don't you shoot the dog?" He replied that the Board would not like to do that. Sgt Duffin said that shooting would be a dangerous practice, as there were so many people about the grounds at times; and besides, he believed "Darby (custodian) was a bad shot." This was followed by laughter in the court.

A major improvement to the grounds was the formation of what is now known as Fountain Lake. This was possible after the acquisition of additional sections from Mr Fookes. The formation was aided by prison labour which was not uncommon back then. The Board had decided to build a boatshed and bridge adjacent and approached Mr G Brown to draw up some plans.

The first interprovincial rugby game was played on the Sports Ground in August, Auckland v Taranaki.

The Board's funds were boosted by £53 4s 10d from the distribution of an old relief fund for the Taranaki refugees that were sent to Nelson in the early 1860's.

Section 1084 was acquired during 1893. This was the section necessary to give good access to Carrington Road (now Victoria Road). The Rhind Gates stand on the northern boundary of this section.

There were many donations of trees and shrubs from: Major Brown, Captain Mace, Messrs, A Standish, F Oliver, J Wheeler, J Skinner and T Hickman, H Arden, J C Davies, J Dingle, Mesdames, R Street, Skinner senior, and Karira of Rahotu. The planting of many of the donations was supervised by Hamer Arden.

Other donations included a pair of pea fowl from Mr Reynolds of Pungarehu, a kiwi from Mr Skeet, and goldfish (which were released in the Fountain Lake) and a black swan from E M Smith, M.H.R.

Summary of significant events

- Facing of Cannon Hill and putting the cannons on the hill.
- Whale bones arrive at the Recreation Grounds.
- Work starts on forming Fountain Lake.
- Dr Hector of the Colonial Museum produces sketch for laying out the whale bones.
- Fountain Lake completed and filled for first time.
- Section 1084 finally secured around this time.



Cannon Hill adorned with whale bones. Circa 1900 (NPDC Parks Dept)

TH, JANUARY 21, 1893
BOARD GIFTED WHALE BONES

When the large whale was recently stranded near the mouth of the Kaitiaki river, the question of obtaining the skeleton for the Recreation Grounds was raised, and it was understood that the Recreation Board were favourable to the proposal if the bones could be obtained. On Friday Mr T. K. Skinner, a member of the Board, drove out to Tatarahaka, and had an interview with the Buck Farm hands who found the whale. Messrs Carr and Luckie, who are the principals in the matter, generously agreed to give the skeleton free of charge to the Board. Accordingly the only expenses attached to the undertaking will be the cost of conveyance of the remains to town, and the cost of burying the skeleton in the grounds. All the bones are thoroughly bleached. Mr Whitcombe, manager of the farm, has kindly consented to undertake the work of supervising the packing of the bones and seeing that they are forwarded to town. The hands who found the whale, it is stated, will make a good thing out of the whalbone, a piece of which is now on view in Mr Isaac Ford's shop in Brougham-street.

TH, JANUARY 25, 1893
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At the last meeting of the Recreation Board Mr W. Carter offered £1 to purchase English wild flowers and for sowing in the grounds, provided that the sum was supplemented by a similar amount. The Board passed a vote of thanks to Mr Carter, and expressed the hope that some persons would come forward with donations in order that the Board could take advantage of the offer. The Board decided to appoint a collector to get in the annual subscriptions. A sum of 14s 3d was received through the donation boxes. A vote of thanks was accorded Messrs W. Carr and L. Luckie for the free gift of the skeleton of a whale, and another vote of thanks was accorded Mr Whitcombe for supervising the packing, &c., of the skeleton.

TH, JANUARY 27, 1893
RECREATION GROUND UPDATE

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—The collector of the Board will soon be on his rounds, and it is to be hoped that some of the annual subscribers will drop out of the lists, and that many new names will be recorded. The Board confidently make an appeal, and are prepared to give an account of their stewardship. They are in debt some £60, for which the individual members of the Board are responsible, but they can point to the accomplishment which, for the first time has been made thoroughly safe at a cost, I think, of about £50.

Before the institution of annual subscriptions, this had been left a source of danger to the grounds, and even to parts of the town from want of funds.

New walks have been made with great judgment all over the grounds, and new beauties have been discovered that had hitherto been obscured by ferns and ferns. The unlightly cutting at the back of the Board Rotunda has been changed into a thing of beauty, and the flagstaff hill, with the artillery on it, wears all persons that "Britannia never will be slaves." Few

people have how much time and valuable professional skill has been gratuitously given to the Board by its Chairman, Mr T. K. Skinner, and it is only fair that his name should be publicly alluded to.

The plan of getting rid of ugly and useless plants and ignominious trees has been steadily kept in view, and of replacing all gaps as far as possible with native ferns and ferns, with a grand avenue of deciduous trees has been planted by the side of the recesses. An attempt has been made to get color by having gardens made and hardy bulbs and shrubs planted at random, and this has been an unsuccessful that I feel sure more work will be done in the same direction. The offer of a donation for the purpose of planting out English wild flowers shows a taste that the Board will do well to gratify. During the autumn it is hoped that some of our country friends will collect some of the different kinds of tree ferns, so as to have clumps in different parts. What we have now, I think, the most beautiful, and we should aim at variety. Most of the native ferns and shrubs obtained last year were covered by planted out rather too late, but on the whole have succeeded wonderfully, and have shown how much under the transplanting of these is than at first was supposed, and it is undeniable that the example of the Board has been largely copied in private gardens.

In conclusion I would say—pitch into the Board when they go wrong, but support them liberally if on the whole you find that they are honestly doing good work, and don't let them be hampered by money difficulties, which take all the spring out of public Boards as well as private individuals. I look forward myself to being

"A Nonconformist one Many Years."

TH, JANUARY 30, 1893
NEWTON KING IN COURT

Monday, January 30.—Before W. Smart, Esq., B.M.

Presented a LADY.—Charles Bolton, jun., pleaded guilty to a charge of having a water fly from the Recreation Grounds on January 9.—His Worship continued the boy against such conduct in the future, and then discharged him.

DEAN OF RECREATION GROUNDS.—Newton King pleaded guilty to having a dog in his following in the Recreation grounds on December 20. In explanation Mr King stated that he lived on property adjoining, and the road through the grounds was the near way to town for him. The dog followed him without his knowledge assistance, and came through by himself. Besides the grounds were not enclosed by a dog proof fence.—Sergeant Duffin stated that the Board could not keep birds in the grounds on account of dogs, and only the other day the Board refused the offer of a pair of swans because they were afraid dogs would destroy them.—Mr King said that dogs could get in from the woods, along which their masters walked, and kill birds. In Auckland and Christchurch, the places in which birds were kept were surrounded by a dog proof fence.—His Worship said that he saw the difficulty that there would be in having a person in view of the nature of the forest. He would think over the matter.—Charles Carroll pleaded not guilty to a similar breach of by-laws on December 24. Sergeant Duffin called Darby Claffey, custodian of the grounds, who stated that he spoke to defendant on the

date in question about having a dog in his following. In answer to defendant, witness stated that he was on a gate at the race on December 24, and that was not the day that defendant was in the grounds. The date was a mistake in the statement. His Worship dismissed the information.—J. C. George, who did not appear, was charged with having a dog in his following in the race grounds on January 23. T. K. Skinner, Chairman of the Board, gave evidence that he saw Mr George with a dog in his following, and spoke to him about it. They could not accept an offer of swans on account of birds being wanted. His Worship: Why don't you shoot the dogs? Witness said that they would not like to do that. Sergeant Duffin said that shooting would be a dangerous practice, as there were so many people about the grounds at times, and besides, he believed "Darby was a bad shot." (Laughter.) His Worship finally reserved his decision in both cases till Tuesday.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1893
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Board met on Friday night. In response to an application from the Swimming Club the Board decided to allow loans to members of the Club to swim in the lakelet between 5 and 7 p.m., up to March 1, provided that a certificate be shown as permitted at the sports he work, and that in case of any breach of this condition the permission be revoked. It was also agreed to let the Club charge for admission on the day of the Aquatic Sports. It was decided to purchase £30 of fireworks to be used on a fire just to be fired upon. Mr W. Dingle's tender of £4 a year for a postlock on the Derrington Road was accepted. It was decided to ask the Borough Council to erect a lamp at the Lincoln-street entrance, the same to be lit on fire, &c., occasions.

TH, FEBRUARY 16, 1893
ACCOUNTS FOR 1892

The following is an abstract of annual accounts of the Recreation Grounds Board for year 1892.

Receipts—Cash balance at 1st January, 1892, £3 17s 7d; contribution boxes, £5 10s 11d; Borough Council, 4 quarters, £26 5s; fishing and shooting licenses, 12s 6d; rents, £3; subscriptions and donations, £45 4s 7d; sundries, £5 5s 6d; bank overdraft at 31st December, 1892, on personal security of certain members, £23 5s 6d. Total, £178 8s 7d.

Expenditure—Bank overdraft, 1st January, 1892, £7 12s 1d; Claffey—wages, 163 10s; sundry labour, materials, cartage, petty disbursements, £34 2s 11d; interest on and funding purchase money of sections, £5 5s; interest on bank overdraft, 12s 2d; cash in hand, 51d December, 1892, £4 3s 5d. Total, £178 8s 7d.

Liabilities 10th February, 1893.—Mrs Pookes, purchase of sections, £123 2s 6d; W. Dingle, purchase of sections, £30; sundry accounts, about £10; bank overdraft, £29 11s. Total, £192 12s 4d.

Urgent Needs.—Now roof for an Indian's house, £8; boat house, £20; new bridge at upper end of lake, £40.

Mr W. A. Collins has forwarded to us a view of the Recreation done by the photo-graphic process. The picture looks as if it were a water-color engraving rather than a photograph, it is so soft; and yet the minutest details are sharp and clearly brought out. These new photos will stand the severest tests without fading in the least. We would advise our readers to go and inspect the pictures done by this new process.

TH, MARCH 3, 1893
AQUATIC SPORTS RESULTS

The Aquatic Sports which were held in the Recreation Grounds last night on Thursday afternoon were well patronized, about 250 being taken at the gates. The weather was rather cold for swimming excursions. The T.H.Y. Band under Band-leader Harry were present, and went through a capital programme. Mr G. Harvey, the Secretary of the Swimming Club, carried out his duties in an admirable manner.

The results are:—
Boys' Race (for boys under 15 years).—A. Cliff, 1; E. Rivett, 2; S. Morry, 3. R. Ford, C. Walker, and Page, also started.

Mixed Race, 100 yds.—W. M. Stephenson, 1; J. Morry, 2; G. Hutchinson, 3. Harvey and Spargo also started.

TARANAKI GRAND HANDBALL, 100 yds.—G. Hutchinson (score), 1; E. G. Walker (scorer), 2; H. L. Kingsley (score), 3. E. G. Hughes and W. A. Bennett also started.

Lower Boys Handicap.—E. G. Hughes (catch), 1; W. J. Treble (10 yds), 2; W. M. Stephenson (7 yds), 3. H. L. Kingsley also composed.

Boys' Handicap, 25 yards (for boys under 16 years).—G. Cliff (catch), 1; A. Thorpe (catch), 2; C. Walker (10 yds), 3. Also started: R. Ford, E. Morry, and H. Morry. A close finish between first and second, resulting in a yard win for Cliff.

TARANAKI GRAND HANDBALL, 300 yds.—G. Hutchinson (10 yds), 1; E. G. Walker (catch), 2; H. Inch (15 yds), 3. Also started: E. G. Hughes and W. A. Bennett. Won easily. Walkersons fast at the finish, but was too late.

The Race.—There were a dozen starters in this, W. Wood being the winner.

TARANAKI GRAND HANDBALL, 300 yds.—E. G. Walker (catch), 1; G. Hutchinson (10 yds), 2. Only the two started, but the race was well contested, Walker winning by about two yards. It was stated that the winner went the wrong course, but Hutchinson would not enter a protest.

Handicapped Race.—E. G. Hughes, 1; Hodges, 2; G. Hutchinson, 3.

TH, MARCH 6, 1893
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The ordinary meeting of the Recreation Ground Board was held on Friday night. An application from Mr F. W. Richmond to cut down plane insipid trees was granted, he giving native shrubs as an equivalent. Mr Cook was appointed overseer for the month. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr H. Street for the gift of a lily. It was decided that the members should meet in the grounds at an early date to consider the question of cutting down certain trees on the banks overlooking the lake.

MR ERNIE CAVILL'S EXHIBITION. On account of so many counter attractions the swimming exhibition given by Mr Ernie Cavill, the champion of Australia, in the Recreation Grounds on Thursday afternoon was only moderately attended. Those who did attend, had the pleasure of seeing a first-class exhibition of water polo by Mr Cavill, who fully maintained his reputation. There were a couple of races for local lads in the programme. Walker won the 100 yards event for boys under 15, and W. W. the 50 yards race for boys under 15 years. Cavill swam the Walker 15 seconds' start in 100 yards, and after a splendid race the local lad won by about a yard. Cavill then gave an exhibition of diving, fancy swimming, swimming the apparently drowned, and also swam across the lake and back with his feet and hands tied.

TH, MARCH 29, 1893
WHALE BONES ARRIVING

A wagon load of whale bones passed through the town this (Wednesday) afternoon, being a portion of the skeleton of the whale, which was stranded down the coast some time ago, and which was donated to the Recreation Grounds, where it will be set up.

TH, APRIL 4, 1893
ATHLETIC SPORTS A HUGE SUCCESS

ATHLETIC SPORTS IN RECREATION GROUNDS.

Starters.—Messrs H. G. Burroughs, T. H. Skinner, H. Dawson, H. Rivett, A. Underwood, F. Watson, G. W. Brown, H. Almyer, W. Webster, J. H. R. Thompson, W. Bennett, W. Ferry, T. Mills, Harris, Ford, J. H. Lightfoot, T. Fawcett, Jas. P. Jackson, R. Cook, and T. Murphy. Judges.—Messrs H. G. Burroughs, T. H. Skinner, and H. Dawson. Starter.—Mr J. H. Lightfoot. Handicapper.—Mr E. Burroughs. Handicapper.—Mr H. Rivett.

Recreation is generally looked upon, both at home and in the colonies, with anticipations of a most pleasurable character, anticipations which become more or less realized as circumstances will admit. In Taranaki we are in no way likely to close up our business premises, and for the day enjoy an outing. Monday was one of our busiest holidays, and it was an expedition which led from Parker of a by-stander in the Recreation Grounds, if the weather had been of our own selecting it could not have been done or more favourable for the Athletic Sports being held there. The Recreation Grounds was the chief attraction, and the attendance there could not have been far short of 2,500, persons coming from all parts of the district. The crowds and attentions were most active and attentive to the visitors, and the whole affair was a decided success. The Town Band under Mr Gerry was in attendance, and followed the proceedings.

The Athletics Sports were closely watched, and both the starter Mr J. H. Lightfoot, and the handier Mr. H. Rivett, were to be complimented for the capable manner they carried out the work. Mr W. H. Skinner, the Secretary, and Mr G. T. Hils, also deserve to be mentioned for the courteous manner with which they carried out their respective duties.

The Recreation Grounds seem to be a happy hunting ground for pilferers. It will be remembered that a few weeks ago the bones of a whale were brought in from Takemakia for reconstruction in the grounds, and they were stacked behind the bathing-house for the time being. It has been discovered that persons have been carrying off some of the small bones. In view of this the Board have decided to enter a prosecution against any person taking away bones from the stock.

A variety of whale bones, which were brought from considerable distances, were some time ago planted at the waterfall in the Recreation Grounds. The efforts of the Board to beautify the spot have, however, been nullified by some persons, who have deliberately plucked a number of the bones, and carried them away. The members of the Board feel annoyed over the matter, and have determined to prosecute anyone against whom proof can be obtained.

TH, APRIL 8, 1893
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Francis Moore T. H. Skinner (Chairman), Corkill, Cook, Grevitt, Ray, Ford, and Hughes.

Order for Bridge.—The application of Mr Cook for some timber to repair the footbridge at the waterfall was left to the Chairman to arrange.

Complaint.—The secretary was instructed to write to Mr Bruce complaining of the breaking of a branch of a菩提 tree by his child on Easter Monday.

Bones.—The action of the secretary in ordering the removal of a boat from the lake was upheld. It was further decided that no fishing boat license be allowed to expire, and not to be renewed, and that no fresh licenses be issued.

Annual Subscribers.—It was decided that the thanks of the Board be tendered to the annual subscribers, and that a list of the names be published.

Overseer.—Mr Corkill was appointed overseer for the month.

Donation Bones.—A man of the lid for two months was acknowledged through the donation boxes. Accounts were passed, and the Board adjourned.

TH, APRIL 10, 1893
CORKILL CHARGED IN DOG CASE

DOG IN RECREATION GROUND.—Francis Fawcett Corkill pleaded not guilty to a charge of having a dog in his following in the Recreation Grounds on April 5. Mr Fawcett wanted to know if the dog had been duly notified. Sergeant Duffin said that they had been notified. Sergeant Duffin called Richard Cook, member of the Recreation Board, who said Mr Corkill was also a member. On April 3 Mr Corkill drew witness's attention to the fact that the dog had followed him into the grounds unknown to him (Mr Corkill), and that he was in the act of taking it out when he pointed the dog out to Mr Cook. In answer to the witness's statement that he could not swear that defendant admitted or took the dog into the grounds. He only knew that the dog

was in the grounds with him.—This was the evidence.—The defendant took except the 1. the copy of by-laws produced, as there was nothing to show that they were the by-laws of the Recreation Grounds. He contended that a corrected copy should be produced.—Mr. Ferris said that the by-laws had been acted on before, and they were, therefore, deemed to act on them.—Mr. Corhill then gave evidence that he went to the Sports on Monday afternoon. The dog was not taken or admitted by him to the grounds, nor did the dog follow him in, but must have come in on his own some time after he entered the grounds. When he saw the dog he took him out. He submitted that the by-laws only provided for cases where dogs were admitted or taken into the grounds, and there was no penalty against an owner of a dog which went into the grounds of its own accord, except that the dog could be destroyed.—After a conference, Mr. Ferris said that there had been some slight differences of opinion among members of the Board, but they had agreed to meet each other. The Board were of opinion that it was not lawful to admit or take a dog into the grounds, and that any dog found wandering in the grounds could be shot. The Board were of opinion that there was no proof that Mr. Corhill admitted or took the dog into the ground, and under the circumstances the charge would be dismissed.

TH, MAY 12, 1893
CAPTAIN MACE DONATES PLANTS

Those who are doubtful as to whether it is possible to make a plantation of native trees and shrubs when once the original bush has been destroyed should obtain permission from Captain Mace to visit his grounds on the seaward side of the South Road at Okara, where they will see almost every kind of native tree, fern, and grass growing in wild profusion, the only difference between ordinary bush being the great variety in one place. Captain Mace began his planting about twenty years ago, so that his experiment has stood the test of time in a spot by no means favorable to the best. So many seedlings of all kinds have come up, that Captain Mace kindly invited the Recreation Grounds Board to send out some of its members to select any that they thought would be useful. Mr. T. K. Skinner, the Chairman of the Board, and another member went out on Thursday, and arrangements have been made for sending out an express, which will return laden with treasures of all sorts, including also hardy flowering shrubs and creepers from all parts of the world, with which the garden adjoining the plantation is well stocked. We feel certain that Captain Mace's generous example will be followed, and that other farmers will send in similar gifts. There is practically no limit to the trees ferns that would be acceptable, and, for those who have plenty to spare, it would be very little trouble to put up a few when coming into town. The funds of the Board are, we repeat to learn, too small to justify the expense of sending out expresses, except in very exceptional cases.

TH, MAY 22, 1893
FOUNTAIN LAKE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Several improvements are being carried out in the Recreation Grounds, the principal being the formation of a lakelet on the low ground between the Carrington Road entrance and the present clock of water. When completed this new lakelet will be one of the prettiest spots in the grounds. The "race" that has been formed at the southern end of the reserve will, in the course of a couple of years, be one of the attractions of the place, as the box trees hedged are growing vigorously.

TH, JULY 7, 1893
FLOODING IN THE RECREATION GROUND

The late heavy rains have caused some damage in the Recreation Grounds. The lower lake, that has not been completed, was full of water on Thursday, and the Sports Ground was partly inundated.

TH, JULY 11, 1893
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs T. K. Skinner (chairman), Goret, Hay, Ford, and Hedges. Mr Cook was absent on account of illness, and Mr Corhill was at a Masonic gathering.

Complaint.—Mr Williams wrote complaining of Mr D. Chaffey, the caretaker, impounding his cattle.—It was decided to acknowledge the letter, and to inform Mr Williams that if he has been wronged by Mr Chaffey he has his remedy in the Law Court.

Anonymous Donor.—The Board thankfully acknowledged an anonymous donation of £10 towards the expense of preparing the new lake.

Thanks.—The thanks of the Board will be tendered to Capt. Mace, Messrs J. Skinner, J. C. Davies, J. Dingle, Messrs R. Street, and Skinner, son, and Kaira (of Babeta) for their donations of native shrubs and plants. The thanks of the Board were also passed to Mr Hester, for his sketch and valuable information for the erection of the wheel's skeleton.

Planting.—It was resolved to make arrangements with a skilled gardener for the planting out of native shrubs.

TH, JULY 22, 1893
HAMER ARDEN TO AID PLANTINGS

The Recreation Grounds Board have arranged with Mr Hamer Arden, to supervise the planting out of native trees, and he is at present engaged putting in two ferns round the large lake. Mr Arden has given a load of tree ferns, and another load is coming from Mr Standish next week. Mr John Skinner has given a large quantity of paper grass, and Constable Hickman has also presented a lot of cabbage trees, and donations of pines and other trees are being made, so that if the weather continues fine a good deal of work will be done.

TH, AUGUST 14, 1893
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At the last meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board, a vote of thanks for donations of shrubs and plants was passed to Major Brown, Captain Mace, Messrs A. Standish, F. Oliver, J. Wheeler, J. Skinner, and T. Hickman. The treasurer for the month, Mr E. C. Huxton, reported that during the month 500 native plants and shrubs had been planted in the grounds, under the direction of Mr Hamer Arden. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr A. C. Fookes for a donation of £1 1s. Mr Hay was appointed treasurer for the month.

The members of the Recreation Board will visit the grounds on Thursday afternoon for the purpose of inspecting the damage done by the late heavy rains, and to devise means for repairing it.

TH, SEPTEMBER 4, 1893
RUGBY IN THE RECREATION GROUND

INTER-PROVINCIAL CONTEST.

AUCKLAND V. TARANAKI.

The annual Inter-Provincial contest between Auckland and Taranaki was played in the Recreation Sports Ground this (Saturday) afternoon before a large assemblage of spectators. Owing to the rain that set in on Friday night and continued to-day the ground was a bit dippy and heavy, but, nevertheless the play was at times brilliant.

THE TEAMS.

were appointed:—

Auckland (colours, dark blue and white):—Full back, Marshall; three-quarters, Gardin, Kinding, and Peace; half-back, Elliot (captain) and Edwards; forwards, Curkin (Taranaki), Hama (Taranaki), Seward, Murray, Green, Rhodes, Spaight, Hills, and McMillan. Curkin and Hills played wing forwards.

Taranaki (colours, amber and black):—Full, Robinson; three-quarters, A. Bayly (captain), A. Good, U. Good; half, A. Humphries; wing forwards, W. and C. Bayly; five-eighths, Robson; forwards, Hedges, Lambie, Coffey, Hawkes, Livingston, Ryan, and Bengoor.

The teams were driven to the ground in trucks. The Town Band, under Bandmaster Garry, assembled opposite the National Bank before the teams left and played some inspiring music.

There were about 2500 spectators present. Auckland played in the north half, with a slight breeze in their favor.

Mr F. Edwards was line umpire for Auckland, and Mr H. Lamb for Taranaki.

Play is kicked off. After some scrum work Taranaki got a rush on from a throw in, and, following up well, Walter Bayly touched down at the corner. Robson failed to convert. No further score was made in the first spell, which ended with the score—

Taranaki	—	—	—	2
Auckland	—	—	—	0

At the conclusion of the game the score was—

Auckland	—	—	—	4
Taranaki	—	—	—	2

**TH, SEPTEMBER 4, 1893
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday. Present: Messrs Skinner (chairman), Corhill, Govett, Hughes, and Harris Ford (hon. sec).

Donation of Free Seats—Mr Corhill informed the meeting that Mr McRaynolds, of Pungarehu, would donate a pair of free seats if the Board would accept them.—Board accepted the kind offer of Mr McRaynolds.

Estimate of Expenses—Mr Russell presented a general estimate of expenses.

Spade—The amount for the month was instructed to fill in the ditch near the Sports Ground by laying down a temporary log culvert.

Bridge Plan—It was decided to ask Mr G. Brown to prepare a plan for a small bridge and located at the upper end of the lake, and within a cost of acres, and to attend the next meeting of the Board with same.

Contributed Seats—The hon. sec. reported that he had had been received through contribution boxes for a period of 2 months.

Cleaner—Mr Cook was appointed overseer for 3 months.

The Board adjourned.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 20, 1893
UNUSUAL PLANTING**

There has been planted in the Recreation Grounds a slip from the willow tree on which the Rev. Mr Vallier was hanged by the Maori at Opotiki.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 21, 1893
FUNDRAISING**

**MISSES ALPHEA CONCERT
IN AID OF RECREATION GROUNDS.**

There was not so large an attendance at the Alexandra Hall on Wednesday evening as the prevailing circumstances seemed to demand, for apart from the absence of the night, which of itself was a great inducement to people to go out, and the fact that the two talented English ladies here in our midst seem to be responsible for a good big half of the programme, and looking at it from a more selfish standpoint, that of having our beautiful Recreation Grounds, it was thought, and very rightly so, that the Hall seating accommodation would have been taxed to its utmost limits. However, the concert was none the less enjoyable. The concert was opened by the orchestra playing the waltzes to Duff's "Bohemian Girl," the part where the curtain takes the solo being very nice. The song, "Our Last Waltz" (Molloy) was sung by Miss Rose Albo, who was very successful, especially in the last two verses. The song, "Oh! Oh! Hear the Wind Whirls Blow" (Meredith), was sung by Mr Webb-Dowson, who, in the second part, gave "Father O'Flynn," the latter being evidently pleasing the audience most. The song "I Dream I Dwell" (Halls) followed. This was given by Miss Julia Albo, in company more like its proper speed than we have been accustomed to hearing it before, and it was very enjoyable, so much so that it was cheered, but the lady warmly bowed her acknowledgments. A violin solo by Master E. Collier was next in the programme. It was a quiet piece of music, a recital,

and very beautiful it sounded, and a repetition of the whole piece would have been highly acceptable. The duet, "Sacred Mother," from Wallace's "Marionettes," was sung by the sisters Albo in their usual able manner, for which they have an acknowledgment to an encore. After an interval of 10 minutes the second half of the programme was opened by the orchestra playing a composition of Mr Garry's, "General Dance." The trio with the descending chromatic passages on the piano forte, sounded novel and interesting, but it was all pretty, and was also well played. The song "Scenes that are Brightest" (Wallace), sung by Miss Rose Albo, was highly enjoyable. The song, "Father O'Flynn" (Stanford) was sung by Mr Webb-Dowson. He gave it in excellent style, and was cheered, but simply acknowledged the compliment with a bow. "The Last Chord" (Halloran) was sung by Miss Julia Albo, and was rendered exquisitely, and the audience insisted on hearing the singer again, even though Miss Albo twice acknowledged the success, but had at last to give in and sing "The Old Folks at Home," No. 2, a correct solo, "Serenade" (Gossard), played by Mr George Garry was accompanied on the piano forte by Miss Julia Albo. This item was played excellently, and was well worth hearing again, being certainly one of the most perfect numbers in the programme. The duet "I know a bank" (Hoss) was well given by Misses Albo, after which Mr Garry's orchestra played "Lustig" (Kola-be's) with not quite the same amount of success as they played it in Havelly night, but which, however, was very enjoyable, and made a fitting end to a successful concert. Mr Garry did the work of accompanying in a highly satisfactory manner. During the evening Mr H. C. Hughes asked the audience to join him in expressing their hearty thanks to the Misses Albo for their kindness in taking part in the concert for the Recreation Ground, not forgetting Mr Webb-Dowson and Mr Garry and his orchestra. The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

**TH, OCTOBER 7, 1893
FUNDRAISING**

ALEXANDRA HALL.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12th.

**A VARIED
Entertainment**

will be given for the Benefit of the
RECREATION GROUNDS.

PROGRAMME—
PART I.

- 1 Orchestral Piece (conductor Mr Garry)
 - 2 Song Miss Yates
 - 3 Tableau A Japanese Tea Party
 - 4 Piano Solo Miss Eliza Douglas
 - 5 Recitation Mr J. Rogers
 - 6 Vocal Quartette—Mrs Brock, Miss Sharp, Messrs Howlstone, and Webster
 - 7 Song Miss Nellie Howlstone
 - 8 Tableau—Queen Katherine's Vision, from "King Henry VIII"
- Ten minutes interval.

PART II.

- 1 Orchestral Piece (conductor, Mr Garry)
- 2 Tableau in two Acts, from "Hamlet," Ophelia, in the Graveyard Scene
- 3 Song Mr C. E. Shaw
- 4 Piano Duet The Misses O'Hall
- 5 Tableau—Pharaoh's Daughter, adapted from the famous picture by E. Long, R.A.

- 6 Vocal Duet—Misses Newport and Howlstone
 - 7 Song Mrs Nixon
 - 8 Song (Monstrous), The Swallow River, Misses Mary and Harriette, Messrs Webb-Dowson and Howlstone, with full chorus.
- God Save the Queen.

Colonial Eight effects with the Tailcoat.

Admission: Dress Circle, 2s; Body of Hall, 1s; Children, half-price. Seats may be reserved at Mr Gilmour's on the payment of an extra shilling. Doors open at 7.30 p.m. Performance to begin at 8 p.m.

The above entertainment is being held under the approval of the Recreation Grounds Board.

T. E. SKINNER,
Chairman.

**TH, OCTOBER 9, 1893
BLACK SWAN DONATED**

The Secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board begs to acknowledge the present of a black swan from Mr E. M. Smith, M.L.A.

**TH, OCTOBER 10, 1893
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Board met on Friday night. Present Messrs Skinner (chairman), Roy, Cook, Hughes, and Govett.

Free Planting—A letter was received from Mr James Arden reporting on the tree planting and other work done under his supervision, and advising as to future planting. Mr Arden was present and conferred with the Board on matters mentioned in his letter. The Board cordially thanked Mr Arden for the great interest taken by him and for the good taste and skill shown by him in the discharge of his duties.

Entertainment—Mr W. H. Paine also waited on the Board and presented the programme of the entertainment to be held for the benefit of the Board, and requested the formal sanction of the Board in the use of the Board's name, assuring the Board that they would receive the whole of the proceeds, deducting only actual expenses.—The Board gladly gave their approval, and promised active co-operation.

A Proposal—A proposal was submitted by Mr Archibald Hood for the writing of a book to serve as a conversational guide book to the grounds, the Board to pay him £5 for his literary work, a specimen of which was placed on record in the minutes book.—Mr Govett moved "That Mr Hood be thanked for his valuable offer, and that the Board would be most happy to allow him the £100 profit estimated to result from the sale of the book, and would be glad to give 5 per cent on the profit."—Carried.—The consideration of the proposal was deferred till next meeting.

Account—Mr Arden's account for £5 was passed for payment.

Overseer—Mr Corhill was appointed overseer for the month.

Woolf-street entrance—The Board decided that the path leading from the sports ground to the Woolf-street entrance is just in order and that the posts at the entrance be shifted.

Overdraft—The bank book showed the overdraft to amount to £20 14s 10d.

Forms etc.—The condition will be instructed to have all the forms in blocks, gridded up, also prepared.

The Board adjourned.

TH, OCTOBER 13, 1893
FUNDRAISING

ENTERTAINMENT IN ALEXANDRIA HALL.

The entertainment given in the Alexandria Hall on Thursday night for the benefit of the Recreation Grounds was well patronized. The receipts totaled about £20, and after meeting expenses the management hope to net about £15. The programme that was submitted to entertain the audience was a capital one, several of the numbers being novel. The two orchestral pieces by Mr. Garry's orchestra were received with great favor. The tableaux, which were a feature of the entertainment, were made very effective by colored lights. The representations were "A Japanese Tea Party," "Queen Katherine's Vision, from 'King Henry VIII,'" "Ophelia in the graveyard scene, from Hamlet," "Pharaoh's Daughter," adapted from the famous picture by E. Long, R.A. Miss Yates was honored for a vocal solo Miss H-tin's piano solo, and Mr G. Rogers recitation were well received. A vocal quartette, "Good Night, Belgium," by Mrs. Brock, Miss Hancy, Messrs. Hirstman, and Webster, was capital rendered. Miss Nellie Hirstman, who made her debut as a vocalist, won well deserved applause for the song "A la Belle Gabrielle" (with solo obligato by Mr F. W. Hirstman). Mr G. B. Stone won an encore for a vocal solo, and the Misses Oldfield were warmly applauded for a piano duet. Messrs. Rowland and Hirstman responded to an encore for the vocal duet, "I've wandered in dreams." Miss Nixon sang "The Teller" with her customary ability, and was well-merited applause. The song "Swanee River," (Illustrated), was nicely given by Messrs. Hancy and Hirstman, and Messrs. Webb-Brook and Rowland, with full chorus. The National Anthem concluded the programme. The stage was prettily decorated with a fine collection of flowers, etc., which were generously supplied by Mr. Mitchinson, of the Caledonian Nursery.

TH, OCTOBER 21, 1893
FUNDS RECEIVED

Mr. Harris Ford, hon. secretary of the Recreation Board, begs to acknowledge the receipt of £15 4s from Mr. W. H. Skinner, being net proceeds from the concert recently arranged for the benefit of the Ground funds. Messrs. Mitchell and Skinner, who arranged the concert, must be complimented on the success attending their efforts.

It is understood that the Recreation Grounds Board have received £38 4s 10d, as their share of the old Tamashi Refugee Relief fund. The rest of the money has been divided among the Forest Reserves Boards in this province.

TH, DECEMBER 4, 1893
NEW LAKE FILLED

The new pond in the Recreation Grounds is now filled with water.

TH, DECEMBER 4, 1893
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Friday last. Present: Messrs. Cerkill, Ford, Stewart, T. K. Skinner, and Hughes.

The Jazz.—Mr C. Edgewood's proposal, £3 5s, for labor at the same was passed for payment. The Board resolved that no further expenses in connection with the same be incurred for six months.

Donations.—Two thanks of the Board were passed to Mr H. G. Hughes for donation of £2, and Mr P. Chapman for donation of £1.

Whale skeletons.—Mr T. K. Skinner was authorized to obtain the probable cost of housing for the setting of the skeletons of the whale.

Chairman.—Mr Cerkill proposed, and Mr GOSSET seconded, "That Mr Ford be Chairman for the coming year."—This was supported by all the members present.—Mr Ford declined to accept election, while acknowledging the compliment paid him.—It was then resolved that Mr Cerkill be chairman.

Secretary.—Mr Hughes was appointed secretary for the coming month.
The Board adjourned.

TH, DECEMBER 18, 1893
GOLDFISH IN NEW LAKE

Mr Harris Ford, hon. secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board, states that several goldfish, presented by Mr H. M. Smith M.A.M., have been liberated in the new pond.

TH, DECEMBER 30, 1893
GYMNASTICS SPORTS DAY

SPORTS IN RECREATION GROUNDS.

The New Year, 1894, will be ushered in on Monday, and as usual there will be a number of festive gatherings to celebrate the occasion. The chief attraction in town will be the

GYMNASTIC SPORTS

which will be held in the Recreation Grounds. The programme consists of various events, several of which will be decided novelties. Besides the ordinary foot racing there will be a bicycle race, sprint exercises (dash ball and Indian clubs) by members of the Gymnastic Club, parallel and horizontal bar exhibitions, physical drill and Indian exercises by members of the Tamashi Rifles, Roman rings and rings, and acrobatic performances. Before the dash ball and Indian clubs start their exercises Mrs. Leatham and Hirstman will judge the best manfully developed man or boy, and the best proportioned man or boy. All the prizes will be trophies. On Friday night the members of the Gymnastic Club held a well attended rehearsal, when all the exercises were gone through in rank, which was supplied by the Town Band, the members of which will be on the ground on Monday. The sports will start at 11.30 o'clock sharp. Messrs F. Watson and S. Humphries have declared handicaps for the 100 and 200 yards race runs and the bicycle race, but as acceptances do not close till the day of the sports it is rather a difficult matter to name probable winners. However, in the 100 yards Ford, Truhy, Birch, and

Patt appear a likely quartette to supply the winner; and Ford, Patt, Birch, and Ward in the 200 yards. In the bicycle race the two carriage men, Bennett and Inch, might supply the winner.

A correspondent has forwarded us the following list for the three handicapped events at the Gymnastic Sports on Monday—100 yards—Edwards, Parker, Patt, 200 yards—Parker, Lever, Hinch. Bicycle Race—Lever, Foster, Inch.



Early photo of Fountain Lake Circa 1897 (Puke Ariki PHO2020-0014-008)

1894

The start of the year saw the completion of the Boatshed and the Boatshed Bridge. The Board's finances once again were in a bad state with outstanding debts for lands purchased. In 1894 they acquired another section, 1135, for which they did not have the cash. Section 1135 was important because it was isolated in the middle of the grounds. When the Board originally got the Recreation Ground it was comprised of town sections, green areas, access ways and roads. Until the Board acquired a section any accessway leading to that section had to remain open.

Another change to the Board saw J. B. Roy replaced by W. L. Newman. Roy had been on the Board for thirteen years but had to resign due to pressures of work. He had been elected mayor the previous year. Newman was well known to the Recreation Ground Board having made several donations including a Dicky Barrett cannon. Newman was also a founding member of the Swimming Club and often helped with firework displays. He was the New Plymouth representative for the Union Steamship Company which also benefitted the Board.

The maze planted by Mr Hood was growing well but it had cost him a considerable amount of money. To recoup some of this Hood decided to write a short story and sell it. The story was called *Johnny Fro*. This was the fourth story by Hood. Whether or not the book produced the income he wanted is unclear. The story is about a boy (Johnny Fro) who meets a girl, they end up getting married after some trials and tribulations. The Recreation Ground is at the heart of the story. (A copy of the book is in the Taranaki Research Centre).

A most novel event of the year was that of parachutist Miss Leila Adair. Her act involved sitting on a trapeze suspended from a hot air balloon, when the balloon reached a height of approximately 4000ft she would jump from the trapeze with a parachute. The balloon would come down of its own accord. Reading accounts of her performances in Auckland, Thames, Hamilton, Hawera, Wanganui and Palmerston North, all were unsuccessful, never attaining enough height to be able to jump. New Plymouth however was even more disastrous, while filling the balloon with hot air the people holding it down lost control and the balloon ended up on the burner and went up in smoke.

The Board organised a series of working bees to cull pine trees which had been planted too close together.

Some of the donations this year: R. H. Gibson, Himalaya Pines. Mrs Jameson of Koru, Camellia trees. Shrubs and plants collected by Mr A. Kyngdon during his recent visit in California and the South Seas. J C Davies, *Meryta sinclairi* (puka) and Marcus J MacReynolds, pair of pea fowl.

Summary of significant events

- Boatshed and Boatshed Bridge completed around this time.
- Working bees were initiated to thin out pine trees in the Recreation Grounds.
- The Recreation Ground Board acquired section 1135 from Reginald Bayley for £16 16s.
- Mr J. B. Roy resigned.
- Mr W. L. Newman was appointed to the Board of Trustees.
- *Johnny Fro* book went on sale.



New Boatshed Bridge with the Boatshed behind. (Puke Ariki PHO2020-0014-017)

TH, APRIL 6, 1894
RUGBY TOURNAM'T/BALLOON
DISASTER

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN THE
RECREATION GROUNDS.

BALLOON HURST.

Judges: Messrs J. Ford and F. Hammond; *Committee:* Messrs R. A. Gillespie, A. Bennett, J. Kirk, T. Collier, W. Hall, and J. Kitch; *Manager:* F. Watson; *Starter:* F. Stok; *Secy. Secretary:* C. B. Laver.

The combination of splendid weather and the opportunity to witness such an unusual event as a balloon ascent had the effect of attracting a very large number to the Recreation Grounds on Thursday. The first round of the tournament was watched with much interest. After the pilot took the starting of the public was concentrated on the balloon which was being inflated by what is known as the Montgolfier process. This process consists in filling the balloon with hot air produced by burning kerosene. Some little delay was caused by some knots which had been made in the balloon, which had to be mended. The balloon was being held down by a number of volunteers from the crowd under the instructions of Mr. Cornell who told them not to allow the balloon to rise. As they went to sit on the parachute, and while an engaged a current of air put a strain on the balloon, which caused those holding it to be dragged, some falling to the ground. It then went towards the far side and falling into the fire where the kerosene was being burned, the balloon was next a mass of burning linen, and in a marvellously short time nothing but the ring remained and the charred fragments remained. The sport, Mr. Cornell, and his assistant, Mr. F. Stok, had a close shave, but fortunately escaped all injury. Miss Adair, who had advised a short time previous to this, and who showed considerable anxiety, made a short speech from her carriage, in which she expressed her regret at the sad accident which had occurred, and hoped the public would not think that there had been any carelessness. She promised that in view of another balloon was made she would ascend, and hoped that the public would extend to her on that occasion the same amount of patronage as on the present. Miss Adair was at this point overcome with emotion and was loudly cheered. The public then turned their attention to the sports which had been recommenced.

The following are the results:—
Tournament, 7 men a-side (for a set of medals): First round: No. 1 Team (Messrs K. Humphreys, A. Wright, G. Ryan, G. Parker, J. Murray, A. Walker, and W. Nichol), 1; No. 4 Team (Messrs H. Elliot, W. Brock, G. Allen, H. Stood, R. Smith, D. O'Connell, and J. Jury), 2; No. 2 Team (Messrs F. Petty, A. George, H. Allen, H. Ballinger, J. Way, H. Stood, and W. Frank), 3. There was some football play, No. 1 team showing up especially well. One of the No. 4 team, W. Brock, had to be replaced in the second round, as he met with a slight injury.
The Second Round was won by No. 4 Team.
First Round: Won by No. 1 Team.
The Plate Cup (for a trophy) was won by H. Stood. None others entered.
75 Yards Handicap (for a trophy):—1st Heat: J. Piggot (7yds), 1; A. Bennett (8yds), 2. Time, 1 4/5 min.
Second Heat: F. Stok (8yds), 1; H. Beck (7yds), 2. Time, 1 4/5 min.
Third Heat:—W. J. Treedy (8yds), 1; A. Kitch (8yds), 2. Time, 1 3/5 min.
Fourth Heat:—G. Parker (8yds), 1; G. Cook (8yds), 2. Time, 1 1/5 min.
Final Heat:—A. Kitch, 1; H. Beck, 2; F. Stok, 3. Time, 7 3/5 min.
Donor Cup (for trophy): This was won by H. Stood.

Tournament's Handicap (150 yards): For prize presented by trustees.—First Heat: G. T. Austin (14yds), 1; A. Bennett (15yds), 2. Time, 17 2/5 min.
Second Heat: H. Walker (14yds), 1; G. Parker (15 yds), 2. Time, 18 2/5 min.
Third Heat: R. Smith (14yds), 1; W. J. Smith (15yds), 2. Time, 17 1/5 min.
Fourth Heat: J. Way (15yds), 1; G. Hammond (15yds), 2. Time, 18 min.
Final Heat: Austin, 1; Walker, 2; R. Smith, 3. Time, 18 min.

Handicap Handicap: Two miles (For a trophy).—R. Edwards (23yds), 1; J. Bennett (24yds), 2; C. B. Laver (25 yds), 3.

Extra Football Handicap:—1st prize, £2; 2nd, 10s; 3rd, 5s; presented by the local patrons.—F. Anderson (8yds), 1; J. Piggot (8yds), 2; C. B. Laver (8yds), 3. Time 11/2 min. Was easily.

The Committee are to be congratulated on the success of the gathering. The success, Mr. F. Stok, got his hands every splendidly. The judges, Messrs Paul and Hammond, gave general satisfaction. Mr. C. B. Laver, the secretary, in worthy of special mention for his courtesy and good management.

During the afternoon, the Town Band played several selections, which were much appreciated. The total of the gate money was £11 10s, showing that there was more a large attendance than on Easter Monday.

TH, APRIL 7, 1894
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A meeting of this Board was held on Friday. Present: Messrs Corbett (chairman), Hughes, Cook, Corbett, and Ford.

Finance.—The tender of Mr. Austin for farm grubbing having been accepted by the Committee, their action was confirmed. It was decided that the tender be paid 50 per cent on the work completed. The remuneration of the tenders for grubbing farms in contracts 7 and 8 was deferred.

Ball or Bowling Society.—It was resolved, "That the special thanks of the Board be given to Messrs Mills and Marry for the successful manner in which they carried out the Easter Monday ball. The Board also gratefully acknowledges the services of the ball committee. The amount realized by the ball was £27 4s. The Board also passed a vote of thanks to Messrs Fisher and Petty for the use of furniture, Messrs Collier & Co. for bills of paper, and to all others who helped to make the ball such a success.

Groomer.—Mr. Corbett was appointed groomer for the month.

Arborist Planting.—The groomer was instructed to see Mr. Arden, and arrange with him for the autumn planting.

This concluded the business.

TH, APRIL 16, 1894
PINE TREE CULLING

Of late years the Recreation Grounds Board have been compelled to spend a lot of labor in thinning out the given margin trees which in the early years, had been planted very close together. Although much has been done to correct the overgrown forest-like appearance of the grounds, the trees are still in some places too thick, and there is too much damage to the character of the trees—the general effect being rather gloomy. In carrying out the thinning process, the Board has not been using the best methods ordinarily, but has been guided by the regard to the principles of landscape gardening. On Thursday last some of the Board's members met in the grounds by arrangement, and spent some hours in making a selection of trees to be removed, as they were in some cases injuring trees which it was desirable to preserve. The

difficulty now is to carry out the removal, for the Board is not only without funds, but is largely in debt. Hence, it has been resolved to hold a working bee on Thursday afternoon, and as several persons have signified their willingness to help, a sheet will be made next Thursday. Others willing to help are requested to give their names to the secretary of the Board.

TH, APRIL 20, 1894
TREE CULLING WORKING BEE

There was a very fair number of volunteers at the Recreation Grounds on Thursday afternoon to thin out some of the trees, and a large amount of "grub" was put in. Mr. Harris Ford very kindly provided tea for the workers. The well-directed labors of a dozen or so of men every Thursday afternoon, would be of great assistance to the Board, and would improve the appearance of the grounds.

TH, APRIL 23, 1894
BATHING SHED BROKEN INTO

The bathing house in the Recreation Grounds was entered on Sunday night, entry being obtained by breaking a window, and the contents, perhaps a few shillings, were destroyed. This is not the first time the house has been rifled, and it is, therefore, to be hoped that the culprit will be detected this time.

TH, APRIL 23, 1894

WORK IN THE RECREATION
GROUNDS.

WILLING HANDS.

Mr. Huxton Ford, Hon. Sec. of the Recreation Grounds Board, has received the following letter, which speaks for itself:—

Egmont Road, April 21st, 1894. The Secretary Recreation Grounds Board.

Sir,—At a meeting of the Egmont Sports and Athletic Club, held last evening, it was decided that a working bee go to the Recreation Ground next Thursday to assist in the work of thinning the trees there. If our services are acceptable to the Board we will be at Mr. Robert Stok's post, Llandudno-street, at 1 p.m. sharp to receive instructions and guidance what to do. The following have given in their names:—S. Hill, S. Barnhill, J. R. Hill, J. W. Thomson, W. Stanley, G. Duvay, W. Giffings, E. Path, C. Barnhill, H. Pratt, W. Bishop, D. Bishop, G. Cobson, H. Bishop, Kora, Kynaka, and Makover, and probably others.—Yours obediently,
SAM HILL, Hon. Sec.

Mr. Ford has replied, accepting the generous offer, with hearty thanks.

TH, APRIL 26, 1894
WORKING BEE SUCCESSFUL

There was a good muster at the second working bee in the Recreation Grounds this (Thursday) afternoon, and some considerable work was done in the way of cutting down and clearing away trees that were considered not necessary. A party of visitors from Egmont Road, whose letter offering their services was published on Tuesday, put in a lot of good, solid work, and well deserve the thanks of the townspeople for the generous spirit they have shown. Refreshments were provided by a number of ladies.

TH, MAY 2, 1894
WORK DONE IN THE PAST YEAR

In the report of the Recreation Ground Board the trustees give a summary of the work done during the year 1893, as follows.—The whole of the Grounds were cleared up, including the grubbing of waste ferns and weeds. A new lake was formed which is one of the most beautiful features of the Grounds. New fencing was erected where most urgently needed. The main path was continued around the upper part of the lake and extended. Nearly three thousand native trees and shrubs have been planted out under the superintendence of Mr. Arden, and a large number placed in the nursery. The flagstaff was thoroughly overhauled and renewed, and a new topmast erected. The base of the flagstaff hill has been stoned, paths made, fenced with posts, and the historic gate placed in position and secured. Large numbers of unsightly glass bottles have been cut down and cleared away, and places fenced for more beautiful trees. A new spring board has been supplied for the convenience of bathers. The outlet of the large lake, which for a long time has been in a dangerous condition, has at considerable expense been made thoroughly safe and workable. A concrete wall was constructed for the sluice, 50 feet of concrete piping laid, and the earth made secure. The whale's skeleton has been brought in from Tatumaska, and will be mounted when funds are available. A good drainage drive has been completed from the Pavilion to the racecourse. A written which belonged to Mr. W. H. Dingle at the Carrington Road entrance has been acquired.

Referring to the new lake the trustees go on to say it would have been impossible to make it if the Board had not acquired the site of a portion of the ground now covered with water. The whole of the purchase money (£135) still remains unpaid, and the Board is paying interest on it, and so far only one anonymous special donation of £10 has been received to recoup the original outlay without considering the annual charge by way of interest.

A section belonging to Mr Dingle on the Carrington Road had to be acquired at a cost of £25 and an exchange of a small piece of land, an exchange would have been necessary in order to get any entrance, and the waterfall would have been inaccessible. Owing to Mr Dingle's liberality in not presenting the board, the purchase money remains still owing.

Since the beginning of the year the Board has erected a new bridge and landscaped at a cost of over £100, the greater part of which is still unpaid. The overdraft at the bank is about £90, and it is absolutely necessary that the funds should be completely grubbed during the winter months, and this will cost about £50.

In all the liabilities of the Board are presently about £240. For every penny of these many liabilities the individual members of the Board are personally responsible, the Board's only assured income being the Borough Council's subsidy of £25 a year, and a few pounds derived from the boxes of portions of the Grounds not required. It is obvious, therefore, that if the Grounds are to be maintained in their present state of beauty, the Board must look to the public for more support, both for this purpose and for the steady improvements to be carried out, and that support should take the form of annual subscriptions.

TH, MAY 5, 1894
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present—Messrs Corkeill (Chairman), Hughes, Cook, Goveck, and Ford.

Leisure Planning Room.—It was decided that a sub-Committee, consisting of the Chairman and Messrs Hughes and Cook be authorized to approve plans of a bathes writing-room and fit site for the same, in conjunction with the Sports Committee.

Reduction of Mortgage.—The Board declared, that out of the annual subscriptions just received, the sum of £25 be paid in reduction of the mortgage on part of the site of the new lake.

By-laws Suspended.—It was resolved that as the Board is not at present able to make any provision for keeping birds in the Grounds, the by-law against admission of dogs be suspended until public notice to the contrary.

Contributions Box.—The overseer for the month was instructed to make the contribution box secure, and put trees bars across the windows.

Contract.—The Board decided to inform Mr F. Austin that unless he proceed with his contract the Board will raise same, and hold him responsible for damages.

Accounts were passed and the Board adjourned.

TH, MAY 9, 1894
WORKING BEE

The Egmont Road Athletic Club will, if the weather permits, come in to-morrow (Thursday) to work the whole day in the Recreation Grounds under the supervision of Mr Arden, who is entrusted with the tree planting operations, and of Mr Hughes, a member of the Board.

TH, MAY 11, 1894
DROWNING IN THE MAIN LAKE

BODY IDENTIFIED.

A body, which has been identified as that of Charles Francis, who had been missing from Massey Road, Oklawaha district, since April 20, was found by the Recreation staff late last night (Friday) morning by Mr Harry Claffey, the caretaker of the grounds. Mr Claffey saw the body floating in the pond about 9 o'clock, and at once informed Constable Gray, who had it removed to the morgue. From the appearance of the body it had evidently been in the water some days, as the flesh was partly decomposed. Dr. O'Connell, who looked at the body, thinks that the man must have been dead several days. The remains are those of a middle-aged man, about 5 feet 5ins. stout, dark complexion, red hair and beard. The clothing is a grey broad waist coat, grey cotton socks, and lace up boots. The only thing that was found about the body was a rather stumpy, bearing the name of Charles Francis. It appears that the man Francis has been missing from Mr Robinson's place, Massey Road, for some days. Medical men having been reported to Constable Lecky, at Stratford. On April 20, Francis was considered as being of unusual build, judging by his remarks at home and wife, he was talked in a peculiar manner, and just before disappearing was known to a woman on Mr Robinson's property. His occupation on the farm was making. He also sent two letters to the Wanganui Licensed office, one being a long disjointed article advocating Federation of all people in the world, and the other was a letter to the editor, in which, it is reported, he stated he would do away with himself.

TH, MAY 23, 1894
SECTION 1135

Mr.—I see that an application has been made for a title to issue to Reginald Bayley for section 1135, town of New Plymouth, which is situated in the middle of the grounds, near the Sports Ground. The Board must have been surely very remiss in allowing such an important section to get into private hands without making any effort. I heard some time ago that this section had been purchased, but it was not offered to the Board previously. I am loath to blame the Board who are doing so much for the grounds, but their true friends are those who care more than where money is apparently lost. I am, Sir,

A SUBSCRIBER TO GAZETTE.

TH, MAY 26, 1894
SECTION 1135

THE RECREATION GROUNDS TO THE LATTER

Mr.—Your correspondent, "A Subscriber to the Gazette," appears to think that the Board has been remiss in allowing section 1135 (situated near the Sports Ground) to pass into private hands without making an effort to secure it. Permit me to say that the first we heard of the matter was about a couple of months ago, when Mr John Skinner applied for permission to run lines in the grounds for the purpose of surveying the section, which he informed us had been purchased by Mr Reginald Bayley from the charitable donors. The members of the Board would have been only too glad (as in other instances) to have purchased the section at the fair value, and advanced the money to do so, had they been made aware of the ownership. Mr Bayley, as a former trustee and secretary, must have been fully aware of the value of the section to the Board and to the community it represents.—I am, Sir,

F. F. GARDNER,
Chairman of the Board,
New Plymouth, 23rd May, 1894.

TH, MAY 28, 1894
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A SPECIAL meeting of the Board was held on Friday evening. Present—Messrs Corkeill (Chairman), Bay, Ford, Goveck, Cook, and Hughes.

It was unanimously resolved "That the Board offers to take over from Mr Bayley the section in the Grounds (No 1135 Town of Plymouth) recently acquired by him, at the amount of his purchase money together with all costs out of pocket."

This was all the business.

TH, JUNE 4, 1894
SECTION 1135 PURCHASED

We are pleased to learn that Mr Reg. Bayley has agreed to let the Recreation Ground Board have his section in the grounds at cost price.

TH, JUNE 7, 1894
SPORTS GROUND CARETAKER APPOINTED

Mr Prior has been appointed caretaker of the Sports Ground in the Recreation reserve at a salary of £15.

TH, JUNE 9, 1894
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Friday night, Mr Corbill being in the chair.

Information.—Mr Marchant, of Tamara, wrote asking for information respecting the management, etc., of the grounds.—Mr Hughes was requested to kindly compile and forward the information asked for by Mr Marchant.

Section.—The Board decided that Mr E. Bayley's acceptance of the Board's offer for the section be thankfully acknowledged, and that Messrs Hughes and Govett be a Committee to complete the transaction.

Donation.—The thanks of the Board will be conveyed to Mr N. King for his handsome donation of £5 to the funds of the Board.

Committee.—Mr Corbill's name was added to the by-laws committee.

Officers.—Mr Govett was appointed overseer for the month.

Finance.—The thanks of the Board will be tendered to Mr E. H. Gibson for his valuable present of Rimnaya pine, also to Mrs Jameson, of Koro, for her offer of acacia trees.

Working Area.—The thanks of the Board will be tendered to the ladies who have at various times kindly provided refreshments for the working force, namely, Misses Roy, Ford, Hale, Newman, Nixon, Paul, Collis, Brown, Telfa, Blyth, Wintesscott, and Misses Young, Colson, Barron, Hampton (2), Ford (2), and Hale.

Form.—The hon. secretary was instructed to write to Mr West calling his attention to the spread of ferns and weeds in the paddock occupied by him, and to request his immediate attention thereto.

Shrub, etc.—The Chairman reported the donation of shrubs and plants collected by Mr A. Kyngdon during his recent visit in California and the South Seas.

Special Thanks.—The special thanks of the Board will be tendered to the settlers—European and Maori—from the Egmont Road, and to all other friends who have rendered will and valuable services at the working box.

Accounts were passed, and the Board adjourned.

TH, JUNE 12, 1894
PLANTING FILLIS ST BOUNDARY

Helpy Planting.—Mr W. H. Skinner, hon. sec. of the Recreation Sports Committee, wrote asking the Council to give the Committee permission, on the usual terms, to enclose a narrow strip of Fillis-street, on the south side from Lambert-street going east to the new corner of section 1116. His Committee wished to plant an ornamental hedge along the frontage to the Recreation Grounds, the present one being unsightly and insecure. They could not spare the space necessary for the purpose within their own rights, as they required every foot of ground for athletic and other purposes.

TH, JULY 9, 1894
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Ford, Govett, Hughes, and T. E. Wilson. Mr Govett was appointed chairman.

Apologies.—Apologies were read from Messrs Corbill (absent) and Cook for absence from the meeting through illness.

Sports Committee.—Mr W. H. Skinner, honorary secretary of the Sports Grounds Committee, wrote pointing out several matters connected with the Committee, and asking the Board to acknowledge same.—The Board decided, "That this Board have great pleasure in enclosing a copy of the resolution of February 5, 1892, and gladly acknowledge their indebtedness to the Sports Committee for keeping their portion of the grounds in such good condition, and generally assisting the Board as liberally."

Resignation.—His Worship the Mayor (Mr J. H. Roy) tendered his resignation as a member.—The Board decided, that the Board deeply regret that Mr Roy's many duties prevented his continuing to be a member of the Board, and they take this opportunity of thanking him for his valuable services for the last fourteen years.

Apologies.—The Hon Secretary acknowledged EI donation from Mr H. King, and EI from Mrs T. King.

Plan of Section.—Mr H. Bayley went in his car in connection with section 1116.—The Board decided to pay Mr Bayley £10 as the price of sec 1116.

Officers.—Mr Ford was appointed overseer for the month.

By-laws.—The Board drafted new by-laws, which will be considered at next meeting.

The Board adjourned.

TH, AUGUST 8, 1894
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met the other night. As there was not a full meeting the consideration of the new by-laws was postponed till next meeting. Fresh tenders will be called for grubbing ferns. Mr Hughes was appointed foreman for the month. It was decided to continue to work at Karamata with the object of having a display, and Mr Cook was appointed to attend to the matter.

TH, AUGUST 22, 1894
RECREATION GROUND CHINA

Mr G. W. Brown has got a new stock of china cut with pictures on the plates, cups and saucers, &c., of the Recreation Grounds. The picture on this new stock of china is far superior to the last one, being copied from one of the latest photographs. It shows the mountain in the distance, the land returns, Post's bridge, and the clump of trees on the hill which has been lately cut down.

TH, AUGUST 29, 1894
NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr W. L. Newman has been appointed a member of the Recreation Grounds, in place of Mr J. H. Roy.

TH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1894
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Corbill (chairman), Cook, Govett, Newman, Ford, and Hughes.

New Member.—Mr Newman was duly appointed by the Governor as a member of the Board.

Working.—The secretary was instructed to accept tenders for cutting and grubbing ferns, ferns, &c.; the same to be completed not later than the end of November, and if not completed by that time the amount to be restricted.

Shrub.—A letter from the Church-street Domain Board was read asking for an exchange of shrubs as per list enclosed. Mr Hughes was instructed as reply to same.

Improvement.—Mr H. Arden wrote suggesting attention and improvement to the Governor's kind of man, and where they should be planted. The letter was acknowledged with thanks.

Letter.—Mr Russell wrote, with reference to Mr Healy's loan of sec 1102.—It was decided that the secretary send a demand for rent to Mr Healy, and request him to do some part of the loan and fence in good repair, otherwise the Board will no longer be bound of contract.

Letter.—A letter was received from Mr Russell relative to an exchange of single's section.—Mr Wilson was authorized to write to the Government, pointing out the reasons why the Governor should consent to the exchange.

By-Laws.—The new by-laws were read and approved, and subject to the assent of the Governor will replace the by-laws.

Donation.—The thanks of the Board will be conveyed to Mr Carter, an secretary of Mr Chamberlain's Park Recreation Grounds, and to Mr Courtney and the passengers per Brough for the handsome addition to the Board's funds received from them.

Officers.—Mr Cook was appointed overseer for the month.

Working Grounds.—Working hours for the season, October 1st to March 31st, will be granted as is.

Water.—Messrs Sheppard and Jones will be warned that they are stopping the water supply from the Recreation Grounds at their own risk, and that in the event of heavy floods it may be at any time necessary to let off large quantities of water from the lakes in the Recreation Grounds through the present water courses.

Accounts were passed, and the Board adjourned.

TH, OCTOBER 12, 1894
JOHNNY FRO ON SALE

Two miles in partial recovery only connected with the Moon in the Recreation Ground, the local Fairy Tale of Johnny Fro is now being sold by the Publisher (Mr T. Avery) and others in the trade, at the very moderate charge of sixpence.

Freely should all this price forego
The tale to buy of Johnny Fro,
And thus its worth down countenance
May further buy in post to friends.

TH, OCTOBER 16, 1894
FISHING LICENSES ON SALE

Mr John Avery has kindly consented to issue fishing licenses for the Recreation Grounds Board, the fee for the season being the modest sum of five shillings. There are some very fine perch in the lake, and good sport may be had. Licenses are now available for the upper lake.

Fireworks!

FIREWORKS!! FIREWORKS!!!

GRAND PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY (consisting of Rockets in great variety, Fire Balloons, 12ft in circumference, Catherine Wheels, Colored Flies, &c., &c.) in Recreation Grounds on **FRIDAY, the 13th instant, 10 o'clock** at 4 p.m.

Town Band in attendance.
Admission, 1s; Children, half-price.
HARRIS FORD,
Rev. Secy.
November 13th, 1894. 1894h

TH, DECEMBER 3, 1894 REVIEW OF JOHNNY FRO

We have received from the author, Mr. A. Hood, a little book bearing the title of "Johnny Fro; a Fairy Tale; with a magical wind up in the New Plymouth Recreation Ground." The tale is supposed to have originated from the brain of a "sixth standard boy," just recovering from "some sort of fever," which had been the means of laying him up for a fortnight. Johnny Fro leads himself in the Rue "one clear night," and whilst leaning over the rail of the Fish's Bridge, thinking of nothing in particular, he sees a young lady with a lamp, who introduces herself as Marinemona Brevage. She asks Johnny to look after her horse whilst she goes on an errand, which he does, and on her return sees the young lady safely off. On going home Johnny finds himself surrounded by fairies, who describe themselves—

"We are little jolly, who scorn nobodyly,
And never a struggle o'er cause a scold.
Ay! we are the fairies controlling the dories,

And here from the chimney led us we like"
After such a night as he had with the "was people," it is not surprising to find that Johnny found himself in bed next morning, but being of an adventurous disposition we are told he got up and dressed himself and was soon ready to seek fresh novelties. His guide meets Miss Marinemona, who tells him her father is "going to put her up in the highest bidder for her hand." Johnny, who had got quite smitten with the young lady, determined to secure her, and with the assistance of the fairies lays down before the girl's father gold enough for that purpose. Johnny and his sweetheart find themselves together again in the "Sec," and Miss Marinemona suggests they should be married in "the Moon." A final claimant to the girl's hand appears, but the fairies soon settle his claim by turning him into an idiot, which "goes by the name of Noyse—yes, even in this very day." The purport of this little book—to draw attention to "the Moon" in the Recreation Grounds, which Mr. A. Hood has taken a great interest in—and the revenue derived from the sale of the brochures will go towards recompensing the author for the very great outlay he has been in in connection with the same. The book is to be obtained from all the booksellers, and we hope soon to hear that the edition is out of print.

The members of the Recreation Board found themselves in an awkward position recently. The contractors for fence grubbing called on the Treasurer for the balance of their money, but there was not a penny to be had—the Board's receipts having been all spent, and there being no money to be had from the Bank, as the Board had withdrawn its account to the extent of £70. Next came the Controller for his month's pay. His usual cheery manner was somewhat checked when he heard there was no money; but, with his characteristic Illovoian resourcefulness he said, "Sure we ought to get up another public. Let us have a jubilee twice a year and a little one every week." We hear that the Board have met their difficulty temporarily by arranging for a further overdraft, for which some of the members are personally responsible.

TH, DECEMBER 11, 1894 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

There was very little business at the Recreation Grounds Board meeting on Friday night. The secretary informed the meeting that the new by-laws had not been returned by the Government. It was decided to hold the pyrotechnic display on Monday, December 17. Mr. Gavett was appointed overseer for the month.

TH, DECEMBER 18, 1894 FIREWORKS DISPLAY A SUCCESS

The pyrotechnic display in the Recreation Grounds on Monday night was well attended, and the Board funds will benefit to the extent of between £5 and £10. The total receipts were £20 to £25, but from this has to be deducted £10 for fireworks and a few small items. The Town Band was in attendance, and played some excellent music.

TH, DECEMBER 18, 1894 SWIMMING CLUB

RECREATION GROUNDS SWIMMING CLUB.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the Borough Council Chambers on Wednesday, December 19th, at 7:30 p.m. **BUSINESS**—To make arrangements for holding the Annual Sports, election of officers, &c.

All interested in swimming are particularly requested to attend, as last year the sports were allowed to lapse owing to the lack of enthusiasm displayed.

CLEMENT WINGERS,

1872a Rev. Secy.

TH, DECEMBER 22, 1894 DARBY'S DONKEY

There was plenty of fun provided in the Recreation Grounds on Friday afternoon by the antics of "Darby's Ass," who refused to be ridden. The Recreation Grounds got dialogued several, including his owner, but at length three kids succeeded in keeping their seats and riding the animal round.

New Plymouth VETERAN VOLUNTEERS GYMNASIUM Athletic Club's SECOND ANNUAL CARNAVAL

(conducted by order of the Regt's Committee and members of the Recreation Grounds Committee)

will be held in the Recreation Grounds on **Tuesday, the 31st JANUARY, 1895** (New Year's Day).
President: James Paul, Esq. Vice-Presidents: Drs. Hutchinson, O'Rourke, and Eastman, Messrs. T. Miller, Weston, C. W. Harris, Captain O'Connell, J. Conroy, Messrs. G. W. Hendry, W. J. Touhy, E. Hill, James, J. Coffey, S. Lyster, D. Moran, G. Lyster, J. Abbott, and S. Hooper. Captain Mr. J. W. Hendry. Vice-Captain Mr. W. J. Touhy. Sportsman: Messrs. F. Watson and R. Hutchinson. Secretary: Mr. W. H. O'Rourke. Judges: Messrs. E. O'Rourke, J. Paul, and G. Hutchinson. Stewards: Mr. A. G. O'Rourke.

- PROGRAMME:**
To start at 1 o'clock sharp.
1. Maiden Race, 100 yds. 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 4d.
 2. Juvenile Handicap (boys under 15), 100 yds. 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 4d; competitors, 4d.
 3. Sack Race, 70 yds. Entrance, 1s. 2d prize, trophy value 10s.
 4. Parallel and Horizontal Bars.—Gymnasium Club. Lectors, Mr. Coffey and Mr. Abbott.
 5. Wheelbarrow Race, 100 yds. Entrance 1s. 1st prize, trophy value 10s. 2nd, trophy value 5s.
 6. 100 Yards Handicap. 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 1s; competitors, 1s.
 7. Traffic Club Handicap. 200 metres. Gymnasium Club. Lectors, Mr. Touhy.
 8. Hardie Handicap (for boys under 15), 100 yds. 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 4d; competitors, 4d.
 9. Paper Boat Race, 50 yds. 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 4d.
 10. Hardie Handicap, 150 yds. 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 1s; competitors, 4d.
 11. Double Balls (in pairs). 50 metres. Gymnasium Club. Lectors, Mr. O'Rourke.
 12. Old Man's Race, over 60 years.
 13. 100 yds Handicap (for members of Gymnasium Club taking part in equal with 100 metres) 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 1s; competitors, 1s.
 14. Swimming Twin Sack Race, 70 yds. 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 1s per pair.
 15. Half-Mile Handicap. 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 1s; competitors, 1s.
 16. Bicycle Handicap, over mile. 1st prize, 1st Medal value 10s. Entrance, 1s; competitors, 1s.
 17. Walking Military March.—Gymnasium.
 18. Obstacle Race, 1000 yards. 1st prize, value 10s; 2nd, value 5s.
 19. Mountain Wheelbarrow Race, 70 yds. 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 4d.
 20. Obstacle Race, 1000 yards. 1st prize, trophy value 10s; 2nd, trophy value 5s. Entrance, 1s.
 21. Bicycle Handicap, two miles. 1st prize, 1st Medal value 10s. Entrance, 1s; competitors, 1s.

MR. H. W. HARRIS, Agent of Professor O'Rourke, has kindly consented to assist in arrangements and for music.

CONCURRENCE.
A trophy will be given to the best competitor (developed) under 10 yrs, and one to the best professional man or boy who is a member of the Gymnasium taking part to equal with during the day. The judging will be conducted by Drs. Hutchinson and Eastman.

Provision for all travelling created—Nov. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30—must be in the hands of the Assistant Secretary (Mr. E. Hill) not later than 5 p.m. on Friday, 29th December, accompanied by the necessary receipt for cash or postal notes, and also performance for the previous two years.

Handicaps to appear not later than 15th December.

The sports will be conducted under the rules of the Recreation Sports Ground Committee.

Admission to ground, 1s; children, 6d.
O. H. LEVER,
1894. 1894h.

Stevenson Percy Smith 1840 - 1922

In 1849 as a nine year old, Smith arrived in New Zealand with his family. His mother's brother was Charles Hursthouse who had persuaded the family to emigrate. He was an adventurous young man and in 1857 with five friends including Arthur Standish and Wilson Hursthouse did an ascent of Mount Egmont taking them five days. In 1858, again with Standish and Hursthouse a party of five friends embarked on a two month trek of over 500 miles via Mokau to Taupo region and back via Wanganui. They used canoes and horses but the majority was on foot.

His career as a surveyor started in 1855 as a cadet with Octavius Carrington. In 1866 while on a field trip with Carrington they were ambushed and fired upon. Fortunately they all managed to escape unharmed. During his illustrious career Smith had many notable achievements around the country but locally he was responsible for developing the road from Opunake to Kaupokonui. By 1889 he worked his way up to surveyor general of New Zealand. On his retirement in 1900 he returned to New Plymouth.

He was also an amateur ethnologist and wrote several important books on Maori history including Hawaiki. He co-founded the Polynesian Society and when he returned to New Plymouth after his retirement the headquarters of the society moved with him. When the Taranaki Museum was opened in 1902 Smith was a major contributor and gave the opening address. Smith also headed a Scenery Preservation Commission set up by the government in 1904. The commission identified scenic and historic sites to be made into reserves. They identified 416 sites of which 61 were gazetted by 1906 when the commission was disbanded. Some notable reserves created were: Otari-Wilton's Bush, Kennedy's Bush, Motukaraka Island, Te Kawau pa, Turuturumokai pa and Ship Cove in the Marlborough Sounds.

In 1920 Smith was awarded the prestigious Hector Memorial Medal.

One of his most notable pieces of work during his time at the Recreation Ground was the development of the Serpentine which extended the main lake down to the southern boundary. He also came up with the name of Pukekura Park and felt strongly that the name should have Maori roots.



Image. (Puke Ariki A66.469)

1895

Originally the hillside south of the Boatshed to the east of the Serpentine was not part of the Recreation Ground. In 1895 the Jockey Club allowed the Recreation Ground Board to fence off part of the land to use. Board member W. L. Newman who was also a steward of the Jockey Club initiated this move. Arbor day had recently started in New Plymouth, following the formation of the Scenery Preservation Society in 1891. C. W. Govett, being a member of both the Scenery Preservation Society and the Recreation Ground Board may have suggested that this newly acquired piece of bare land was a prime location to beautify. Planting took place on August 8. Puriri trees growing on this hillside adjacent to the walking track are undoubtedly from this Arbor Day planting.

The drowning suicide of George Duncan was a most unfortunate event. Duncan, 75, a money lender in town was observed by Darby Claffey (custodian) walking by the Bathing Shed to The Poet's Bridge, then jumping into the lake. Claffey at the time was on top of Cannon Hill cutting grass. In his testimony Claffey said that he could not swim so spotting another gentleman in the ground he ran down the hill, got the assistance of the other man, went to the bridge stopping at the Bathing Shed on route to pick up a rope. On arriving at the bridge, they saw Duncan under the water and lifeless, and having taken ten minutes to get there decided there was no point in trying to rescue him. At the inquest Claffey was criticized for that decision. The incident led to the Board sacking him in early 1896 after being at the grounds for eighteen years. Claffey was more a labourer than a gardener and possibly the Board saw an opportunity to bring someone else in as custodian. On one occasion he was working in the grounds when he was approached by a visitor to town. They asked him if he knew of a particular flower that might be in the grounds. Claffey indicated in the affirmative and proceeded to show them flowering gorse. Claffey died a couple of years later at the age of 49. He is buried in Te Henui Cemetery.

During the summer there were several school picnics in the grounds with students around Taranaki participating. These were big events, on one occasion a group from the Stratford area came in by train and was said to number 1140 people.

To boost the planting of trees and shrubs Hamer Arden published a list of plants that he wanted the public to donate: *Grevillea robusta*, *Ficus macrophylla*, Lawson cypress, Norfolk Island Pine, Chilean pine, *Cedrus deodara*, Austrian Pine, *Cryptomeria elegans*, Silver pine, Tulip tree, Casuarina or shiok, Paulownia, Camphor laurel, Olive, Plane, *Balbrogia lucida*, Retinosporas (any variety), Magnolias, Rhododendrons, Alder, Mountain ash, Tamarisk, Yucca, Fan Palm or Kentia Palm, Washington Palm, and any native trees not too large, especially – Honeysuckle, Hinau, Rimu, Fern trees, Lacebark, Wharangi, Mountain toi, *Pittosporum trifolium*, Nikau. Arden suggested that the month of May would be the best time to send plants, as he would be in the grounds constantly during that month. Plants from this request are still present in the Park, which were likely planted at working bees in June 1895 include, *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* (Lawson's Cypress), *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) and *Rhododendron* 'Sir Robert Peel'.

Summary of significant events

- First Arbor Day Planting in the Recreation Grounds
- Swimming Club is wound up.
- Archibald Hood became ill, but volunteers were found to take care of the maze.
- Drowning in the lake which led to Darby Claffey's dismissal.

TH, FEBRUARY 26, 1895
FIJIAN CRICKETERS IN LAKE

The native members of the Fijian cricketers gave this (Tuesday) morning an exhibition of being wicketing in the lake in the Recreation Grounds. Several local gentlemen witnessed the exhibition.

The white members of the team also indulged in a wicket, and also showed splendid forms in the water. The native members of the team have a custom custom. After finishing their dip they smear their hair with lime, and rub it well into the roots, and they take a header to clear the hair. It is said that this practice gives the hair the golden tint which is a noticeable feature about them. Messrs E. Cook, F. P. Cockhill, and W. A. Collins were spectators of the substantial exhibition.

TH, FEBRUARY 27, 1895
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board has a debit balance amounting to £70.

At its last meeting the Recreation Grounds Board passed a vote of thanks to the retiring chairman, Mr Cockhill, for his services during the past year; also to Mr W. H. Roberts for his assistance in erecting and painting the fence at the Gorington Road entrance.

TH, MARCH 1, 1895
ELTHAM/NGAIRE PICNIC

The Eltham and Ngaire school children and many adults arrived by the ordinary train this morning for the purpose of holding a picnic in the Recreation Grounds.

TH, MARCH 6, 1895
WORKING BEE

The first of the Recreation Ground Working Bees for the season will be held tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon. We have been requested to remind those who propose taking part that operations will commence at two o'clock. Those who may be asked to bring their own axes or stumps. The members of the Board will look on the ground and decide as to the trees to be removed, and in this they will have the advice of others skilled in landscape gardening. Some ladies have kindly undertaken to provide afternoon tea. As the Board welcome the assistance of all, we trust there will be a good muster.

TH, MARCH 13, 1895
PLANTS STOLEN

On Thursday last several members of Recreation Ground Board, accompanied by Mr H. Arden, made a general inspection of the grounds, and they were sorry to find that many of the native shrubs and valuable ferns had been dug up and taken from the grounds. Several of these shrubs and ferns were only got by the Board from different parts of the district after a great deal of trouble and expense. The Board has now almost given up any hope of replacing them. If they are subject to such returns as this for their labor and efforts in planting new, native, and valuable ferns and shrubs, they will have to restrict visitors going into the grounds.

TH, MARCH 15, 1895
SOUTH TARANAKI PICNIC

The children of Stratford, Toko, Cardiff, and Palmer Road schools, accompanied by a number of adults arrived by special train this morning on an excursion trip. The number in the train, which arrived here about 11.40 a.m., was stated to be 1180. The excursionists were met at the railway station by Messrs R. G. Bushope (chairman of Education Board), S. Hill (member of the Board), E. Yeale (secretary of the Board), H. Cook, Harris Ford, and F. P. Cockhill (members of the Recreation Grounds Board.) Before dismissing the children in the grounds, Mr Irvine the Chairman of the Stratford School Committee, advised them, and told them he had one request to make, and that was that he hoped they would leave the grounds without a single complaint. They had very kindly been permitted by the Recreation Grounds Board to hold their picnic here, and as an acknowledgement of their indebtedness to the Board, he asked them for three good cheers. Mr Cook, the Chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, suitably replied, and hoped they would all enjoy themselves.

TH, MARCH 16, 1895
WORKING BEE

Notwithstanding the counter attraction at Waitara on Thursday, about fifteen persons turned up and took part in the Recreation Grounds Working Bee, and did some useful work in thinning out trees, etc. Mrs Arthur Proctor and Mrs C. T. Mills, assisted by Miss Ada Jackson, kindly provided afternoon tea, which was much appreciated. We are informed that next Thursday three members of the Daily Team of Heralds who can be present will give an afternoon, the sisters providing tea.

TH, MARCH 16, 1895
BOARD ALLOWED TO FENCE OFF PART OF THE RACECOURSE

Permission was granted to the Recreation Grounds Board to fence that portion of the Club's freehold property adjoining the Recreation Reserve. Messrs W. L. Newman, F. Watson, and the secretary were appointed to attend to alteration of paddock, planting, and fencing.

TH, MARCH 20, 1895
GARDEN SEAT DONATED

Messrs Cousins & Son, carpenters, have generously donated to the Recreation Grounds a garden seat. We shall be pleased to record that others have made similar donations, as there are not seats anywhere like sufficient for the convenience of visitors in the grounds.

TH, MARCH 21, 1895
WORK DONE DURING 1894

ANNUAL REPORT.

The following is the report of the New Plymouth Recreation Ground Board for the year 1894:—

REVENUE.—During the year receipts from all sources, including bank advances, amounted to £266 13s 4d, while the payments amounted to £258 13s 4d. A dividend owing to the Colonial Bank on overdraft guaranteed by some of the members of Board was, at the end of the year, £73 13s, i.e. £3 13s over the limit. Seeing that the main revenue is derived from the Borough, and that only £20 13s from that source came into account this year, it is evident that the Board is indebted very much to various members and members of the community for their liberal assistance. The Board hopes that the following statement of work done will satisfy the public that the best use has been made of the Governmentally owned money at its disposal. A sub-marine and ornamental bridge, costing over £60, has been erected near Brooklands, in place of one that had fallen into a dangerous condition. Near by a substantial and commodious boat house has been built, at a cost of about £20. This was much needed, as a valuable boat, kindly lent by Mr Cockhill, had been for years, for want of protection, exposed to all weathers, and for months together might be found lying submerged in the lake. A large sum (about £40) has been spent in grubbing ferns, manuka, forest, &c.—the whole of the grounds having been gone over. The eradication of these will for some years involve a considerable outlay. A portion of land, the occupation of which by a private person would have been a serious detriment, has been acquired at a cost of £16 16s. During the year a series of working bees were held, and a great deal of useful work was done under the direction of Mr Arden, whose plan for the permanent planting and ornamentation of the grounds will result most advantageously. Besides the works specially mentioned, the Board has not lost sight of various minor matters relating to the maintenance and improvement of the grounds. Several large undertakings will for some time be open to work with permission. The chief of these are the completion of the large plan by occupation of the upper end, and the erection of a substantial boundary fence. The Board has from time to time visited its admirably-located to those who have generously assisted it, but it is difficult proper on this occasion to name them, especially the named subscribers and those who have shown their interest by taking part in the working bees, especially the ladies, who kindly provided refreshments on the various occasions.

TH, MARCH 22, 1895
INGLEWOOD SCHOOL PICNIC

The Inglewood District school children, numbering some 700, were brought into town on an excursion by the 11 o'clock train this morning. The visit was rather a surprise, as the Recreation Grounds Board had received no intimation of it. The children, who comprised the scholars of Inglewood, Werrily-road, Dullay-road and Norfolk-road schools, spent the day in the Recreation Grounds, and returned home by the evening train greatly pleased with their outing.

TH, MARCH 27, 1895
WORKING BEE

At the Recreation Grounds Working Bee, on Thursday, between 15 and 30 Sociables were present, and, aided by about ten other workmen, a good afternoon's work was accomplished. The Misses Rendell (3) and the Misses Mann (3) provided an excellent tea, which was much appreciated. The grounds looked very lively, there being, in addition to the workmen, the Catholic picnic party and the cricket match Hawera against New Plymouth. The next Bee will be held to-morrow (Thursday).

TH, APRIL 8, 1895
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met at Friday evening, April 8th. Present, Messrs Hughes, Skinner, Newman, and Ford. In the absence of the chairman (Mr B. Cook), Mr Hughes presided.

Business.—The Rithian and New-seaby School Committees wrote thanking the Board for allowing them the use of the grounds for their picnics, and enclosing in each case a donation of £1.

Religious Service.—Permission was granted to the Rev. W. Peiter to hold a religious service in the grounds on the afternoon of Good Friday.

Boating.—It was resolved that in future any school or parties requiring the use of the boat be charged from 10s to 15s, to be expended on the boat to keep it in repair, and on no account is the boat to be used unless a responsible man is put in charge.

Music.—Mr Collins applied on behalf of the Hawera School for permission to hold their picnic in the grounds on Thursday next. Granted.

Apology.—Mr Tomlin, secretary to the Inglewood School Committee, wrote apologising for their neglect in not making application for permission to use the grounds on the occasion of their picnic.

By-Laws.—The new by-laws were received from the Colonial Secretary, who notified that they had been granted. It was decided to advertise them in both the local papers.

Football.—The Secretary was authorised to write to the Sports Organising Committee, asking them to make special arrangements with the Football Club playing at the grounds for the protection of the grounds, benches, and tennis-lawn, as the Board intends to strictly enforce the by-laws.

Secretary.—Mr Newman was appointed secretary for the month.

The Board rose, after deciding to meet in the grounds this (Monday) afternoon.

TH, APRIL 10, 1895
RECREATION GROUND BYE-LAWS

BY-LAWS OF TARANAKI BOTANIC
GARDEN BOARD, NEW PLY-
MOUTH.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 25th March, 1895.

THE following by-laws, made by the Board of Trustees for Public Recreation of the Taranaki Botanic Garden, having been approved by His Excellency the Governor, are published in accord-ance with the provisions of "The Taranaki Botanic Garden Act, 1876."

F. A. HUCKLEY.

BY-LAWS OF TARANAKI BOTANIC
GARDEN BOARD, NEW PLY-
MOUTH.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 25th March, 1895.

THE following by-laws, made by the Board of Trustees for Public Recreation of the Taranaki Botanic Garden, having been approved by His Excellency the Governor, are published in accord-ance with the provisions of "The Taranaki Botanic Garden Act, 1876."

F. A. HUCKLEY.

BY-LAWS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR PUBLIC RECREATION OF THE
TARANAKI BOTANIC GARDEN.

IN pursuance of the provisions of "The Taranaki Botanic Garden Act, 1876," the Board of Trustees for Public Recreation hereby repeals the by-laws of the said Board heretofore in force, and in lieu thereof hereby makes the following by-laws:—

1. Interpretation.—The word "garden" means the limits vested in the said Board by virtue of the said Act. Words importing the masculine gender include females; words importing the singular number include the plural number; and words importing the plural number include the singular number.

2. The garden shall be open daily from sunrise to sunset, and no person shall without the permission of the Board enter the same or remain therein except during such hours: Provided that this by-law shall not apply to any person lawfully going to or from any dwellinghouse in the immediate vicinity of the garden.

3. No person shall fish or take fish in any stream, in or from any lake or stream within the limits of the garden, or from the banks of any lake or stream which may be within the limits of the garden, except with the permission in writing of the Board.

4. No person shall within the limits of the garden hunt, snare, or destroy any bird, or take or destroy the nest or egg of any bird.

5. No person shall take, carry, or use firearms, or any fireworks or explosives, or any weapon or instrument of a dangerous character, or horse and carriage, or carriage or stagecoach, within the limits of the garden except with the permission of the Board.

6. No person shall throw sticks, stones, earth, rubbish, or other missiles within the limits of the garden.

7. No person shall introduce any dog, or permit or suffer any dog (unless lawfully to follow him within the limits of the garden, and any dog found within the limits of the garden (unless lawfully to follow him) may be destroyed by any person authorised by the Board either generally or for any particular case.

8. No meeting or assemblage of persons of any kind for games, sports, games, or any other purpose whatsoever shall be held within the limits of the garden without permission in writing from the Board, and no games or sports shall under any circumstances be played or held within the said limits on Sundays.

9. No person shall have bottles, glass, crockery, paper, remnants of food, or other litter within the limits of the garden.

10. No disorderly persons, vagrants, or persons of bad repute shall be allowed within the limits of the garden.

11. No person shall walk or otherwise trespass on the beds, grass-plots, or borders within the limits of the garden, and no person shall sit upon the edge of any tarred terrace or embankment, or climb or jump up or jump down over the top of any tarred terrace or grassed embankment.

12. No person shall ride on drags, vehicles of any description whatsoever on the paths within the limits of the garden, or any places other than those set apart for the purpose by the Board.

13. No barrows, bicycles, tricycles, or other vehicles (except perambulators and baby-carriages) will be allowed within the limits of the garden without leave from the Board.

14. No horses, drays, sheep, goats, or other stock be allowed in the garden without the permission of the Board.

15. No person shall go through, climb or sit over or through, or damage any fence, locked gate, or barrier, or other property belonging to or in custody of the Board, or take, deposit, or remove any wood, earth or gravel, or break or cut any fence, post, shrub, or tree from or within the limits of the garden.

16. No person shall bathe in any lake or stream within the limits of the garden, or from the banks of any lake or stream which are within the limits of the garden, except at the places that may be provided for the purpose, and during the hours notified as set apart for the purpose.

17. No person shall sell or offer for sale any article of food or merchandise, or any liquors (including or otherwise), or any kind of drinks, or carry on any trade or calling within the garden without permission in writing from the Board.

18. No person shall remove, disturb, break, destroy, cut, mow, let down, weeds, figures, or decorations or deface any food or movable goods, gates, bridges, or trees, or any property of the Board within the limits of the garden.

19. No person shall within such limits as aforesaid use any abusive or profane language, or commit any breach of the peace, act of indecency or other impropriety, or assault or annoy any other person. No person shall behave riotously or boisterously within the garden or on or to any officers, or shall call or whistle after any person in a manner calculated to annoy other persons.

20. No person shall destroy, deface, or injure any structure or any object attached to or connected with articles, or trees, or shrubs, or other plant within the garden, or any copy of these by-laws being up or affixed to any entrance to or in any part of the garden.

21. No person may put up or erect a swing in any part of the garden unless with the permission in writing of the Board.

22. No person may erect or keep any stall or booth unless with the permission in writing of the Board.

23. Any person sitting under the authority of the Board or any committee may summarily prevent the erection of or remove or pull down any swing, stall, or booth about to be put up or put up contrary to the above by-laws respectively.

24. Any person who shall be convicted of any breach of any of the above by-laws shall be liable to a penalty of not less than one shilling, and not exceeding five pounds.

25. These by-laws shall come into operation six weeks from the date of the approval of the same by the Governor.

Made by the Board of Trustees for Public Recreation of the Taranaki Botanic Garden, at New Plymouth, this 7th day of September, 1894.

F. P. COLEMAN,
Chairman.
HARRIS FORD,
Hon. Secy.

I approve the above by-laws, this twenty-fifth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

G. GOSWAMY,
Governor.

TH, APRIL 10, 1895
FUNDRAISING

At the athletic meeting to be held in the Recreation Grounds on Easter Monday, Mrs Burthoum and Miss Humphries have generously offered to provide afterwards tea, the proceeds from the sale of which are to be handed over for the benefit of the grounds. This will be a long-felt want, and we hope the public spirit of these ladies, who are giving the provisions as well as their time in this undertaking, will be rewarded by a good business on sports day.

TH, APRIL 22, 1895

FANCY DRESS
FOOTBALL MATCH.

TUKAPA FOOTBALL CLUB.

THURSDAY NEXT, APRIL 25TH

RECREATION GROUNDS.

GRAND PROCESSION AT 1.30 P.M.

THE Tukapa Football Club propose formally opening the season by holding a Fancy Dress Football Match in the Recreation Grounds on the above date. A Grand Procession will leave the Post Office at 1.30. They will start at 3 o'clock.

Admission, 1/-; Ladies free.

F. W. WEMYSS,

471a

Man. Secy.

TH, APRIL 23, 1895
ARDEN ASKING FOR PLANTS
DONATIONS

Sir,—The planting season is close at hand, and several citizens of New Plymouth have asked me what sorts of trees are wanted for planting in the Domain, and as there may be, and should be, others who wish to help in decorating their beautiful grounds, but who do not know what to give, will you allow me, through your columns, to give a list of the plants that would be most acceptable and appropriate at the present time. Besides the natives, donations of native trees are much wanted for replenishing the nursery bed, and I am sure they will be most gratefully received by the Board. They should be carefully inspected or dug up—and pulled out by the roots—as a score carefully raised are worth a hundred pulled out. The month of May will be the best time to send plants, as I shall be in the Grounds constantly during that month.—I am, &c.,

F. H. ARDEN.

The following is the list:—Grevillea robusta, Ficus macrophylla, Lawson cypress, Norfolk Island pine, Chilean pine, Cedrus deodora, Austrian pine, Cryptomeria-japonica, Silver tree, Tally tree, Camellia or albizia, Fuchsia, Camphor laurel, Olive, Plane, Hollubaugh larch, Baccaropa (any variety), Magnolia, Rhododendron, Alder, Massiana ash, Tamarisk, Yucca, Fan palm or Kentia palm, Washington palm; and any native trees, not too large, especially—Honey-suckle, Hiana, Kiro, Fern trees, Lacebark, Whangui, Mountain tai, Pittosporum trilobum, Nireu.

TH, JUNE 24, 1895
JOCKEY CLUB LAND USED BY REC

The Taranaki Jockey Club have given the Recreation Grounds Board the use of the gully in which native hick is growing, at the back of the grandstand. Mr W. L. Norman, who is a member of both bodies, arranged the matter.

TH, JULY 16, 1895
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Friday. Present Messrs Corbitt, Ford, Gerratt, Hughes, Norman, and Skinner.

Chairman.—In the absence of the Chairman, Mr Gerratt was elected in his stead.

Tree Planting.—Mr H. Arden wrote suggesting the work and tree planting he thinks necessary should be done in the grounds.—It was decided to thank Mr Arden for the valuable suggestions contained in his letter; also for his kind services in the past, and that he be informed that the Board greatly regrets its inability, on account of poverty, to incur any further liability during the present season, as the several subscriptions received amount to less than half those of former years, and that the bank overdraft, for which the members are personally responsible, stands at nearly £100.

Complaints.—The Board resolved, that in consequence of numerous complaints that during the football season the whole of the grounds are closed to the public on nearly every Thursday afternoon, the Sports Committee be requested to arrange that persons presenting themselves at the Curvington Road and Brooklands entrances may be admitted without payment, on their assurance that they do not wish to witness whatever sports or games that may be going on.

Thanks.—The Board decided that the hearty thanks of the Board be conveyed to the Taranaki Jockey Club Committee for the perpetual lease of the valuable piece of land at the back of the grandstand, and which has so largely increased the attractiveness of the ground.

Overseer.—Mr Skene was appointed overseer for the month. The Board adjourned.

TH, JULY 30, 1895
ARBOR DAY

At a meeting of the Committee of the Senary Preservation Society, held on Saturday evening, it was decided to recommend the authorities to proclaim Thursday, 8th August next, as Arbor Day, instead of Wednesday, the 7th. It was suggested that there should not be a whole holiday, and the president was instructed to interleave the Mayor on the subject. A resolution was passed that, subject to the approval of the Recreation Grounds Board, the Senary Preservation Society recommended that the piece of land lately handed over to the Recreation Grounds by the Jockey Club should be planted with native trees only. A sum of £50 was voted for the purchase of tree ferns and cabbage trees, but it was hoped the public would also help by supplying suitable trees. The secretary was instructed to write to the member for the district, asking whether anything had been done to protect the Palm range, near Okara, about which petitions had been presented to the Government.

TH, AUGUST 3, 1895
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday night. A letter was received from the Senary Preservation Society intimating that the Society had invited the public to plant native shrubs in the newly acquired land in the Recreation Grounds on Arbor Day. The Board accepted the offer, and invited the public to bring especially fern and cabbage trees, parties, kauris, and other hardy native trees and shrubs. The Board decided to thank Mrs Mayson, Mr F. Hurdhouse, and Major Brown for donations of shrubs. Mr Skene was appointed overseer for the current month.

TH, AUGUST 8, 1895
ARBOR DAY PLANTING

PLANTING IN RECREATION
GROUNDS.

ARBOR DAY, or tree planting day, a custom imported from the United States for the purpose of, in every degree, restoring the tree life that has and is being swept away through an unrelentingly unending chain of forests, was observed here to-day (Thursday). By making the day a public holiday, all business being suspended, it was evidently intended that the public should have brought to their notice the significance of the event, but beyond the planting of trees and shrubs in the portion of the Recreation Grounds lately handed over to the Recreation Grounds Board by the Taranaki Jockey Club, nothing of any importance was done. It must be admitted, however, that the work done in the Recreation Grounds, which was arranged and supervised by the useful body, the Senary Preservation Society, will confer a great benefit on the public, as the beautifying of any public resort cannot do, but if any great practical good is to be derived from the annual observance of Arbor Day, and that is the desideratum, then the public must be awakened up to the importance of the position in order that tree planting on a large and systematic scale should be considered part of our duty to his country. At present the young valiantly straggle, careless Arbor Day children in their football or some other game, never dreaming that the event has any national significance, and things will run on much the same until the subject is given a more important position in school work than it has at date.

As before mentioned, there was some tree planting done in the Recreation Grounds, and fair work was got through. A nice variety of native trees and shrubs was planted, and if they all take root the recently acquired property will, in the course of a few years, be a picturesque spot.

TH, SEPTEMBER 13, 1895
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met the other night. Mr G. Hemingway, of Kaponga, wrote stating he had been appointed secretary for New Zealand for the East Breeding Association of Australasia, and offering to sell the Board a pair of same for the grounds for £15. The secretary was instructed to reply that the Board was not at present in a position to purchase. Messrs W. L. Norman and T. K. Skinner were appointed a committee to inspect the section created by Mr J. West, and report on its condition. Mr T. K. Skinner consented to act as overseer for another month.

TH, SEPTEMBER 21, 1895
SPORT GROUND COMMITTEE
SIX YEAR SUMMARY

A meeting of the Sports Ground Committee was held in the small room in the Town Hall on Friday night. Present: Messrs Dungey (chairman), Ad. Goldwater, J. Bennett, W. Webster, Brown, Humphries, and Skinner. An apology for absence was received from Mr MacDermid.

STATEMENT.—Mr W. H. SKINNER read the following statement:—Since the formation of this Committee in October, 1888, a sum of £1151 had been raised by aid of subscriptions, donations, gate money, etc., at athletic, football, and other gatherings, the details of which are given below. During the same period we have expended on the sports ground—that is, in reclaiming it from a swampy waste and making it as it now stands—a sum of £431 15s; the balance, amounting over 60 per cent., of the total surplage has been swallowed up in expenses, such as price money, advertising, land, gate men, and other expenses. This all goes to prove the assertion made so often in this Committee that raising money by means of athletic meetings is a most expensive way. Now that the grounds are fit for football and cricket a steady revenue can, we think, be looked for. The average from this source for the last three years has been at the rate of £30 per annum, net. Appended will be found condensed details of revenue and expenditure for the six years this Committee has been managing that portion of the Recreation Grounds known as the Sports Ground:—Revenue: Donations, £63; subscriptions, £38 7s; refreshments and acceptances, £177 3s; taken at gates, £292 15s; bird on wing, &c., £146; sale of books, £27 14s; football matches, £80 11s; various, £22 15s; total, £1,151 10s. Expenditure: Sports ground, £431 15s; price money, £265 15s; advertising, £42 4s; land, £48 15s; various, gate men, labour, &c., £107; cart in hand, £0; total, £1,151 15s.

The Committee discussed the position, and finally decided that they continue on at present. Mr W. H. Skinner agreed to continue in the position of hon. sec. till the end of October next.

This completed the business.

TH, OCTOBER 5, 1895
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday night. Messrs Skinner and Newman reported on the state of the paddock rented to Mr J. W. &c. After a discussion as to the state of the paddock and the destruction of the club badge, further consideration was deferred for a month.

TH, OCTOBER 18, 1895
RECREATION GROUND POEM

INTENTIONS
[An Incident in the
Recreation Grounds.]

A sunny morn,
A garden seat,
A pretty girl
In costume neat,

She sits one maid,
He sits another.
In speech between
Sits her mother.

She reads a book,
And looks so meek;
He takes a book,
And longs to speak.

The mother sleeps—
Oh, perfect bliss,
Behold the son
To steal a kiss.

They nearly get—
Ah! should they miss—
The mother wakes
Just as they kiss.

"Young man," said she,
"Since he is so,
Your 'intention,' sir,
I wish to know."

"My 'intention' was
While I am main
Never to try
It an' again."

TH, NOVEMBER 7, 1895
MAZE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

**AN APPEAL FOR THE MAZE
TO THE KINGD**

Sir,—Now, for some time past I have been disappointed from giving the requisite attention to the maze in the Recreation Grounds. Most unfortunately also, the Board lacks the means of rendering assistance. Still, I venture to think, when that is shown out forth, generally becomes known, that there are a few of the hard-ripped game about, who would unobtrusively give a small pitance towards preserving this construction—having in the near future, if looked after, a capacity for yielding exquisite amusement—from being converted absolutely into a wilderness of woods.—
I am, &c.,

A. Hood.

[We shall be pleased to receive donations for the above purpose, on behalf of Mr Hood.—Ed. T. H.]

TH, NOVEMBER 23, 1895
WINDING UP SWIMMING CLUB

A meeting of members of the Recreation Grounds Swimming Club was held in Mr C. W. Gavett's office on Friday night, when it was decided to wind up the Club, and hand over the surplus in hand to the Recreation Grounds Board. The following resolution was passed:—"That the Recreation Grounds Swimming Club be wound up, and the surplus in hand (about £2 1s) be given to the Recreation Grounds Board, together with all materials belonging to the Club, with a request that the Beach Bathing Club be granted the free use of the latter at all times."

TH, DECEMBER 7, 1895
MAZE WORK CONTINUES

We are pleased to state that Mr Austin has been employed to-day (Saturday) by Mr G. W. Brown to continue the work of putting the maze in the Recreation Grounds in order. On Monday he will be employed by Mr H. Bayley, and as he will still take some five or six days to complete the work, Mr E. Humphries will be glad to receive the names of others who are willing to contribute.

TH, DECEMBER 7, 1895
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Skinner (chairman), Ford, Gavett, Newman, Corhill, and Hughes.

The Town Board made an application for the use of the grounds on New Year's Day, and authority to charge for admission on that date.—Granted.

The hon. secretary informed the Board that he had received a complaint about a young lady plucking flowers in the grounds on Sunday last.—The Board decided not to prosecute in the case, the offender having apologised and being apparently sorry for her conduct, but should there be any repetition of the offence the case will be put in the hands of the police.

The application of the Redivive Army for holding a picnic in the grounds on Boxing Day was granted.

Mr A. Hood wrote, informing the Board that owing to illness he is reluctantly compelled to hand over the further construction of the maze.—The Board decided, that the thanks of the Board be tendered to Mr A. Hood for his past services and labor in planting and attention to the maze, and that the Board regret that, owing to illness, he is unable to render any further assistance.

Mr E. Cook was appointed overseer for the month.

The Board adjourned.

SUICIDE OF MR GEORGE DUNCAN.

DROWNED HIMSELF IN THE RECREATION GROUNDS LAKE.

The town was startled just after 12 o'clock to-day (Monday), by the announcement that Mr George Duncan, the well-known money lender, had drowned himself in the Recreation Grounds Lake. The body was recovered just underneath the Post's bridge, off which deceased jumped, by Constable MacMorris and others, and was removed in an express to the Morgue.

MR CLAFFEY'S ACCOUNT.

Mr Ducky Claffey, the Custodian of the grounds, who was an eye witness of the act, gives the following account of the affair:—"I was cutting grass on one of the lawns overlooking the large lake this morning, when about 11.30 o'clock I noticed Mr Duncan starting near the bathing-stand, engaged in cutting stones, which he had evidently brought with him, into the water. Two men, strangers to me, accompanying the path, when Mr Duncan had ceased throwing the stones, and Mr Duncan seeing them, sat down on the seat on the verandah of the bathing-house. I went on with my work, and on looking again I saw Mr Duncan walking along the path toward the bridge, and while watching him I noticed him throw a stick under a bush. I went to work again, and in shifting my position happened to look up the lake, when I saw Mr Duncan on the bridge, making efforts to get up on the side near the water. In a moment he succeeded in getting up on the side, and before I could call out sprang into the water feet first. I immediately ran and called a man who was near the sports grounds. We both ran to the bridge, and saw Mr Duncan's body in the water, the feet appearing to rest on the bottom. I informed the police, and Constable MacMorris and others by the means of grapnels recovered the body."

Mr Claffey was working at the other end of the lake, on what is known as O'Connell hill, which is some considerable distance from where Mr Duncan jumped in. The lake at the bridge is deep, there being fully 12 feet of water.

Mr Duncan, who was over seventy, was about the town this morning attending to his money business, as was his wont, and spoke to several persons. He seemed to be in his usual condition of mind, and did not give any signs that he contemplated such an act as suicide. Mrs Duncan, we understand, did not observe anything in his manner this morning that would lead her to think that he intended to do away with himself.

The deceased was in business in town as a stockbroker in the early days, and after giving up that he engaged in the pursuit of a money-lender.

Dr. W. W. Christie viewed the body at the morgue.

An inquest will be held to-morrow. Financial worry led, it is thought, to the commission of the act.

The deceased gentleman intended to take a trip to England next month.

Mr Handless informed our representative that while walking in the grounds he noticed an elderly gentleman throwing stones in the water near the bathing-stand, and this confirms Mr Claffey's statement.

INQUEST.

THIS DAY.

An inquest relative to the circumstances of the death of George Duncan, who drowned himself in the Recreation Ground lake on Monday, was held at his late residence, Courtenay-street at seven o'clock, before Mr H. G. Bouchette, J.P., Acting-Coroner, and the following jury—W. F. Brooking (Foreman), J. Abbott, P. Asher, J. E. Chatterton, W. Ambery, and W. H. Clarke.

Inspector Thomson conducted the enquiry. After viewing the body, which lay at the residence, the following evidence was taken.

Dr W. W. Christie deposed that he examined the body of deceased at the morgue. Life was extinct. The external appearance of the body were consistent with death by drowning. He never attended the deceased professionally. Judging from appearances the deceased died quickly after immersion; there was not much struggling. The shock would have a good deal to do with the death, as much as the choking by water.

Matilda Duncan, wife of deceased, said her husband would have been 75 years of age to-day (Tuesday). She saw him last about 11.30 o'clock on Monday morning, when she was working in the garden. He carried a pail of weeds for her, and afterwards asked where a syringe was that he could take it to Abbott's to get repaired. She said the syringe had been fixed up. She did not see him again alive. When she heard of his death she thought he had dropped dead as the doctors said he suffered from valvular disease of the heart. She did not notice any difference in his manner when she conversed with him on Monday, nor did she for days before. At the end of 1888 deceased had an attack, and Dr. Gibbons said the symptoms were those of aneurism. There was nothing apparent to her that the deceased was worried over financial matters. He had some losses in Bank shares, but said he would not worry. He would not attend to business for some months about four years ago, as he was suffering from nervousness.

Arthur Standish, of the firm of Messrs Standish and Kerr, said the firm acted for deceased, who called at the office on Monday morning, and had an interview with witness lasting about ten minutes. Deceased transacted some small matters of business, and left about 10.45 a.m. As deceased was leaving witness mentioned a small matter of business, and deceased said he would see him next morning about it. There was nothing unusual in deceased's manner or appearance, nor was there anything in the business transacted calculated to excite him. In thinking the matter over after hearing of the death witness noticed deceased was more silent than usual. Had known deceased for 40 years, but never knew him to suffer from attacks of mental aberration, but some years ago he had an illness that made him distrustful in seeing people.

Ducky Claffey, caretaker of the Recreation Grounds, said he saw deceased in the grounds about 11.30 o'clock on Monday morning near the spring board at the lake. He was throwing stones into the lake. I was cutting grass on the flagstaff hill at the time. About twenty minutes after I first

saw him, I saw him walking towards the bridge at the head of the lake. I saw him throw his walking-stick under a holly bush, about 20 yards from the bridge. I next saw him go on the bridge. He leaned over the bridge and looked over the parapet of the water, then moved along a little more and got over the pump and on to the suspending beam that projects, and then jumped into the water. I then ran down the hill, and in the direction of the sports ground, in which direction two strangers had gone, and called one man who was leaning over the gate. We both ran to the spot, and I took a rope with me from the bathing-stand. When we got up to the spot deceased was settling down on the bottom of the lake. We did not interfere with the body, as I considered from the length of time he was in the water he must have been dead. It must have been over ten minutes from the time he jumped in till we got back with the rope. I never read of man being brought round when apparently drowned; I consider when they are drowned they are dead. I cannot swim. There were grapnel irons in the grounds, but I did not think of using them. I informed the police of the occurrence. The deceased had been in the habit of frequenting the grounds a great deal during the last 12 months. I noticed that deceased used to cut peculiarly, and I was not surprised at what occurred.

By the foreman: I did not think of making my presence known to deceased on Monday.

By the Acting-Coroner: There are two life-boats in the shed. It never occurred to me to use one of them.

Constable MacMorris deposed that on going to the grounds he got a grapnel iron and line from Claffey, and recovered the body from the water with the assistance of Messrs McKenna, MacFarland, and others. He took the body to the morgue. He found the following articles about deceased:—One pair of £20 11s; 12s 11d in cash, one gold signet ring, pocket knife, pencil, smoking papers, and a letter.

The jury returned the following verdict:—"From the evidence the jury are of opinion that the deceased, George Edward Duncan, came to his death through drowning in the lake in the Recreation Grounds on December 15th while temporarily insane. The jury regret that the custodian so far lost his presence of mind as not to utilize the appliances provided for these cases, and would urge upon the Recreation Grounds Board the necessity of instructing him to use the appliances immediately in future."

1896

Following the dismissal of Darby Claffey, Charles Edgecombe was selected from fifteen candidates for the position of custodian. He was given a salary of £1 5s a week the use of a cottage, its grounds and firewood. The cottage had been the home of Claffey, during his custodianship he had planted apple trees in the garden. Feeling a little upset about his dismissal Claffey decided to chop the trees down.

The Recreation Ground was again the focus of Arbor Day with 200 trees being planted in the area adjoining the Jockey Club, the same area that was planted the previous year.

The first interprovincial rugby match, against Nelson, was played in August 1896. The visitors arriving at 6am by the steamer, *Mahinapua*. Taranaki won 17-0. In January, the Recreation Sports Ground had also hosted the first interprovincial cricket match between the two provinces, which Taranaki won by 59 runs.

One of the major events of the year was Taranaki's first Floral Fete in November, which fortunately coincided with a glorious day, and attracted a crowd of between 3 - 4,000 people. It was organised for the benefit of St Mary's Parish, but the Recreation Board received a quarter of the profits which was £35 15s.

In September, the curator reported that during the month some 300 native plants had been set in the nursery bed – 200 from the Meeting of the Waters and the balance from Brooklands, and he was glad to say that all these are looking well, owing to the “puddling treatment”. About 50 trees of a larger growth were planted out during the month. About 1000 native shrubs had been planted in the nursery during the season. Soon after T K Skinner donated 578 assorted native trees to put in the nursery.

Cabbage trees in the grounds were found to be suffering from an alarming blight in the form of a myriad of pale green caterpillars. The Board was advised to spray the trees with hellebore, which did not work. Subsequently they tried dried lime which was more effective.

After a period of not having swans in the lake because they were unable to control stray dogs harming them, the Board decided to try again. They were promised a pair of black swans by Mr Wilkie which they intended putting in the main lake, and a pair of white swans by Mr Lennard which they intended putting in Fountain Lake.

Summary of significant events

- Darby Claffey gets fired from his job as caretaker
- Charles Edgecombe appointed custodian.
- Taranaki's first Floral Fete



Floral Fete 1896 (Puke Ariki ARC2012-106)



Floral Fete 1896 (Puke Ariki PHO2007-022)

TH, JANUARY 13, 1896
NOTICE OF CLAFFEY'S DISMISSAL

The best of friends must part. The Recreation Grounds Board at a meeting on Friday night decided to give their custodian, Mr Darby Claffey, three months' notice, and it was also resolved to take steps to fill the vacancy. Claffey has been in the Board's employ since 1880.

TH, JANUARY 13, 1896
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday. Present: Messrs B. Cook (chairman), Corhill, Gossett, Hughes, W. L. Newman, T. E. Skinner, and Harrie Ford (hon. sec). The lease of the paddock lately occupied by Mr W. Dingle having expired, it was decided that the overseer report on the condition of the paddock before fresh tenders for lease of same are called. Mr Corhill was appointed overseer for the current month.

TH, JANUARY 18, 1896
CLAFFEY'S LETTER TO EDITOR

THE CUSTODIAN OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In reference to a letter which appeared in your column of the 15th wanting to know the reason of my dismissal from the Recreation Grounds, as the members of the Board are not men enough to answer it, I beg to be allowed to do so to the best of my knowledge. The first reason is because I did not try to save a man who without a doubt was insane, and who was seen coming up to the Grounds cracking two stones in his hands, and saying some prayers. I could not swim and it is not likely I would risk my life for a delirious action. If it had been accidental I would have been greatly to blame if I did not do my best to save his life. I do not want to say any more on this subject as he is now gone. Secondly because I was not raising with complaints to them every week about the public, so as they could be up before the court for the most trifling matters. I was present at the Board's meeting on Friday night, and they never mentioned a word to me, although I expected it, for I got a hint of it a fortnight or more ago. They were very considerate in giving me three months' notice, but I can assure you, Sir, that if my crops were out of the garden I would give them a month's notice to save them waiting such a long time; but I will not leave my garden contents for anyone else. I will wait patiently till my time is up, and I am not afraid of asking the public as large if they have ever seen me killing my time on their visits to the Grounds, or heard of me doing a mean or dishonest action to anyone. The Committee can contradict me if they like now. Hoping, sir, I have not taken too much space in past valuable paper.—I am, &c.,

D. CLAFFEY,

Custodian of the Recreation Grounds.

P.S.—Will you mention that I have been in the Grounds since 1878, making 18 years, instead of 16.—D.C.

TH, FEBRUARY 10, 1896
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Corhill, Hughes, Skinner, and Ford. In the absence of the Chairman, Mr Skinner was voted in pro tem. The secretary reported that two pieces of glass were broken in the bathing house from the inside on Thursday, January 30th; and that the only persons using the shed that afternoon were members of the Cricket Club. It was decided to request the club to pay for the damage. Messrs Skinner, Ford, and Corhill were appointed a Committee to draw up conditions as to duties of custodian of the Grounds, and to receive applications for the position. Mr Ford was appointed overseer for the month.

TH, MARCH 7, 1896
EDGECOMBE APPOINTED CUSTODIAN

There were fifteen applications for the position of custodian to the Recreation Grounds. The names of Messrs C. Edgcombe and H. Tiplady were selected from the list, and the former was finally given the appointment. The salary is £1 for a week with cottage, ground, and firewood.

TH, MARCH 7, 1896
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Cook (chairman), Corhill, Gossett, Newman, Skinner, Hughes, and H. Ford (hon. sec).

Mr C. W. Banting, on behalf of the members of St Joseph's Church, applied for permission to hold a social gathering in the Grounds on March 17. The application was granted, and the use of the tank on the lake will be given for 10s, provided a competent person is put in charge.

The Rev W. S. Peizer applied for use of Grounds for a religious service on Good Friday afternoon. Permission was granted, provided the service is held where pointed out.

Applications for the position of custodian of the grounds were received. Mr C. Edgcombe was finally appointed, in date from April 11.

The Board decided that in future a minimum charge of 2s 6s be made for school or public parties, and that no charge is to be made for admission to the grounds.

It was decided to lease the paddock on the Carrington Road for a term of seven years.

The annual balance-sheet to December 31st, which showed an overdraft of £201, was submitted and adopted.

Mr C. W. Gossett was appointed Chairman for the coming year.

The Board decided to resume possession at the end of the month of the section held by Mr J. Hooley.

It was decided to call a meeting of ladies for Thursday evening, for the purpose of devising ways to raise funds for the Board.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr B. Cook for his services as chairman during the past year.

Mr Gossett was appointed overseer for the month.

The Board adjourned.

TH, APRIL 4, 1896
DARBY'S DONKEY SOLD

An old donkey in the Recreation Grounds, "Darby's Don," was sold on Mr King's Haymarket Yards to-day for £1 10s, Mr Houston, of Weston, being the purchaser.

TH, APRIL 11, 1896
Recreation Ground Board Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Board was held on Friday night. Present: Messrs Gossett (chairman), Hughes, Cook, Newman, Corhill, and Ford. An apology was read from Mr T. E. Skinner for absence on account of illness.

The question of the late custodian cutting down fruit trees at the residence was discussed, and it was decided, that unless a full apology is received within one week from the late custodian, Darby Claffey, for wantonly destroying valuable fruit trees belonging to the Board, the matter be placed to the hands of the police.

The thanks of the Board were tendered to the caretaker of the Botanical Gardens, Christchurch, for his donation of slabs.

The secretary was instructed to pay D. Claffey the for an amount left in the residence by him.

The custodian's report was received, and he was requested to furnish one monthly.

Mr Hughes was appointed overseer for the month.

A donation of £15 was received from the Taranaki Jockey Club, being sent at the request of Mr C. Chastance, Secretary to the Club, who requested that any losses retailed him for his services be donated by the Jockey Club to deserving local institutions. The secretary had replied heartily thanking the Jockey Club for the donation, and asking the Club to convey the Board's thanks to Mr C. Chastance.

Accounts were passed, and the Board adjourned.

TH, APRIL 11, 1896
CLAFFEY CUTS DOWN FRUIT TREES

Mr C. Edgcombe, the custodian of the Recreation Grounds, has been in harness in his new position for a week. The Recreation Board, as will be seen by a report of the Board in this issue, are having some trouble with the late custodian, Mr Darby Claffey, over the latter cutting down some fruit trees near the residence. Mr Claffey planted the trees some years ago, and when the new custodian was appointed, it is reported he offered to sell them to his successor, who declined. Mr Claffey, like George Washington, it is alleged then felled the trees down, but whether with a little hatred or a certain variety of axe history does not state.

TH, APRIL 15, 1896
CLAFFEY APOLOGY

TO THE RECREATION GROUND BOARD.

GENTLEMEN,—As you request an apology from me for cutting down the fruit trees planted by me so many years ago, I can assure you I do so willingly, and must say I am very sorry for what I have done, but was quite unaware of the injustice I was doing, being ignorant of the law. I therefore most heartily apologise again, and beg to remain, your obedient servant,

D. CLAFFEY,

828 Leaning-street, New Plymouth.

TH, APRIL 25, 1896
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHAIRMAN.
 The Chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board for the past year, Mr H. Cook, has presented the following report of the work done during his term of office:—

I regret that I have been unavoidably prevented from preparing my report in time to accompany the annual statement of receipts and expenditures for the past financial year, as, owing separately, it loses some part of the force it might otherwise have.

The receipts from all sources have not exceeded £100 and have been the lowest for some years, and, in consequence, the "progressive" policy of the Board has received a rude check. The two previous years were remarkable for great improvements, there being more than double receipts and expenditures. During the year that has just come to an end, the Board has scarcely held its own, and, closing the year's account, writes sadly the words "as you were."

It is manifest that the grounds have arrived at such a stage that increased efforts are necessary, and whether they are to continue to be a credit to the Town depends in a great measure upon the public providing us, if not with a credit balance, at least with a diminishing debit one.

The only certain income the Board possesses for the present year is the Borough Council subsidy of £50, and rents for a few sections amounting in all to about £11.

The number of annual subscribers must be increased. When we consider the large number of residents who use the ground it is surely not altogether satisfactory that, during the past year, three hundred have been only £1 subscribers. We have a good deal to remark about the liberality of the Public with a big "P" and too little about the small matters, whose names are fairly well known, who do the subscription business for the majority. I see no reason why the annual subscribers should not be doubled and also why there should be practically no late comers, who should undertake to subscribe any time up to the month of June. At our time concerts and entertainments were very frequently held but the Board have, in my opinion, used too much dexterity in their methods of obtaining money, and should ask more boldly in the hope that they may receive from more people. All that the members of the Board can do, and they are all pretty busy people, is to try and go round arranging for the official annual subscriptions, but surely there ought to be some able to say "I will make myself responsible for collecting even as low as 10s" and even in regard to the official annual subscriptions, why are not some paid without demand for any person who pays punctually, distributes the money paid on the overdraft. I know out of the question the balance of always allowing the same six men to contribute jointly and severally liable for never less than £50. The members of the Board do not grade their time, but do seem being hampered as they are by impunctuality. Including the overdraft, which amounts to about £50, the Board is liable for £100, the unpaid purchase money of the site of the new lake, and have other liabilities to the extent of about £50 or a grand total of £500. There must be considerable extra spent this year nearly doing up the committee's conference, in fence-grubbing and in paying the custodian's salary; and how are these sums to be raised, even if we wish for no further improvements? As the Chairman for the past year, I must end my report by asking the public to give a liberal support to the maintenance of grounds which are of incalculable value to all residents and are so attractive to our visitors.—H. Cook, late Chairman of the Board.

TH, MAY 11, 1896
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Friday last. Present: Messrs Gossett (chairman), Cook, Ford, Newman, and Hughes.

A letter was received from the secretary of St. Patrick's Parish Committee tendering their thanks for the use of the grounds, and forwarding £1 as a donation to the Board's funds.

The custodian's report for the month of April was read.

Complaints having been made of the frequent betting at the Star Football Club's sports, it was decided, that the police be requested to take steps to prevent betting in the Recreation Grounds, and the Sports Committee be written to urge them to report at once any offences with a view of prosecution.

The Board decided to accept an offer, if given, of the Wesleyan choir to give a concert in aid of the Board's funds.

The application of the Jockey Club for a lease of part of the section lately occupied by Mr J. Healey for the purpose of widening the street, was accepted, the lease to be for 21 years at a year rental; and Messrs Gossett and Newman were requested to meet a representative of the Jockey Club to make out the area required.

Accounts were passed, and the Board adjourned.

TH, MAY 27, 1896
FUNDRAISING

ALEXANDRA HALL,
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27th.

THE Wesleyan Choir, assisted by several friends, will render the splendid *Carola*, entitled,

"THE HAYMAKERS,"
 on the above date for the benefit of the Recreation Grounds.

- Mary ... The Farmer's Daughter
 Miss YATES (First Soprano)
- Anna ... The Farmer's Daughter
 Miss R. BIRN (Alto)
- John ... The Farmer's Daughter
 Miss JAMES (Alto)
- Farmer ...
 Mr ANDREWS (Baritone)
- William ... First Assistant
 Mr REED (Tenor)
- John ... Second Assistant
 Mr BAIN, (Bass)
- Dairy Maid ...
 Miss SHOBNEY (Mezzo Soprano)

An official Orchestra will be provided.

Tickets, 5s and 1s.
 Doors open at 7.30; commence at 8.
 s.117

TH, JUNE 13, 1896
HARRIS FORD PRESENTATION

A PLEASANT incident occurred in connection with the monthly meeting of the Trustees of the Recreation Grounds on Friday evening, when his fellow members of the Board presented Mr Harris Ford, who has acted as Honorary Secretary for many years past, with a token of their esteem.

The testimonial took the form of a marble mental clock, bearing a silver plate, on which a suitable inscription was engraved. In making the presentation

the Chairman, Mr Gossett, said that the other members of the Board had long felt a wish to make some little acknowledgment of the valuable services which their colleague had ungrudgingly rendered during the past thirteen or fourteen years, and they had accordingly purchased the timepiece, of which he now asked Mr Ford's acceptance. He also alluded to perfect accord in which the members of the Board had always worked, and the really friendly feeling which prevailed all round. Messrs Hughes, Cook, and Corhill also returned tribute to Mr Ford's untiring efforts in connection with the grounds. With characteristic modesty Mr Ford expressed the complacencies which had been paid him, and accepted the gift in the same friendly feeling which had inspired it.

The clock was supplied by Mr A. L. Cooke, Devon-street, and bears the following inscription engraved on it by Mr Cooke:—"Presented to Mr Harris Ford by his fellow members of the Recreation Grounds Board in appreciation of his services as Hon. Secretary.—June 13, 1896."

TH, JUNE 13, 1896
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Gossett (chairman), Cook, Corhill, Skinner, Newman, Hughes, and Ford.

The Custodian reported on work done during the month, and pointed out work required to be done in the Ground.

It was decided that annual tribute issued to the subscribers, although market not transferable, be available to any member of the holder's family.

The Board further decided that a list of annual subscribers be published as soon as the returns have completed their work.

The chairman reported that 70 subscribers have paid up to date, and efforts are being made to bring the number up to 100, which was the original number.

Mr Skinner was appointed overseer for the month.

Accounts were passed. The overdraft is about £50.

It was decided to adopt Mr Cook's suggestion to hold a summer art union during the coming summer.

Mr Cook reported that Mr McMillin, artist, had kindly promised a large painting as a prize in the proposed art union.

TH, JULY 6, 1896
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Friday. Present: Messrs Gossett (chairman), Corhill, Ford, and Hughes.

The custodian reported on the work during the month, which consisted principally of planting-out. The Board decided to give effect to the suggestion of the custodian to work a couple of days at Rowland for the collection of native trees and shrubs. An express will be employed to bring the collection to the Ground.

Mr N. King was thanked for his donation of native shrubs from Brooklands.

The Board resolved that persons desirous of selling tent or refreshments in the Grounds on ordinary occasions must apply to the secretary or custodian for permission, and pay a fee of 2s per day.

The application of Mr Corhill to cut down two pine insignia trees was left to the overseer, who will report to the Board.

The Board granted Mr W. L. Newman leave of absence for six months, and expressed the wish that his trip might prove a pleasant one.

Mr Cook was appointed overseer for the month.

The Board tendered their best thanks to the members of the Wesleyan choir for the donation of 25 lbs. proceeds of the late concert given by them in aid of the grounds.

The Board adjourned.

TH, JULY 22, 1896
FUNDRAISING

FOOTBALL. FOOTBALL.

LAW & BANKS V. CHURCH.

To be played in the
RECREATION GROUND,
TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

Proceeds in aid of the Recreation
Ground.

BASE IS ATTENDANCE.

Kick off at 5 p.m.

Admission, 5d all round. 422

TH, JULY 22, 1896
FUNDRAISING—ART UNION

Mr A. W. McMillin, who some time ago generously promised to give an oil painting towards the Art Union in connection with the Recreation Ground fund, has completed the work, and invites the public to view the same at his studio opposite the Herald's office any afternoon. The picture, which is a large one (36in x 24in), shows Mount Egmont and the ranges as seen from the beach-house in the Recreation Grounds and takes in the path leading to Brooklands and the end of the grounds. The mountains and ranges stand out so well against a clouded sky that one wonders how such effects are produced. The little bits of bush in front of the mountain and ranges are quite picturesque and the fields and bits of shrubs shown here and there are most realistic. The water is the most effective with the hills floating amidst the curves. Mr McMillin's gift is a very handsome one and should not only inspire others to contribute to such a good cause, but also induce the public to patronize Mr McMillin's Art Union and buy his tickets readily.

TH, AUGUST 1, 1896

ARBOR DAY.

THE Taranaki Society Preservation Society would like the public to help in planting the new portion of the Recreation Grounds on Thursday next. Donations of Native Trees and Native Shrubs will be thankfully received.

W. A. COLLIER,

Hon. Sec.

4763

TH, AUGUST 17, 1896
FREE FIREWOOD

The Recreation Grounds Board have decided to thin out a good many of the plants in the Grounds, and any persons who would like to procure a supply of excellent firewood at the cost of their own labour are invited to communicate with the caretaker, Mr Chas. Edgewood.

TH, AUGUST 4, 1896

INTERPROVINCIAL MATCH.
TARANAKI V. NELSON.

The first interprovincial match between Taranaki and Nelson was played in the Recreation Grounds this (Tuesday) afternoon before a fairly large concourse of spectators. The visitors, who arrived by the Mahinapua from Nelson about 9 o'clock this morning, were met at the station by the local members of the Taranaki Rugby Union Committee and others, and formally welcomed. The visitors were then brought to by train, and were driven in buses from the railway station to the Imperial Hotel where quarters had been arranged for them. The fact of coming off a sea voyage did not improve the visitors' chance in the game. The Nelsonians, who are on tour, travel down the coast playing Wangarei, and Manawatu.

The visitors were taken for a drive to the Waterworks and other places in the vicinity of the town.

TH, AUGUST 7, 1896
ARBOR DAY PLANTING

Arbor Day, which was held here on Thursday, passed off very quietly. A number of volunteers, at the invitation of Mr G. W. Garrett, President of the Society Preservation Society, and Chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, assembled in the grounds to clear and plant the slope of the piece of ground which was generously handed over to the Board by the Taranaki Jockey Club. The fern and other growth was cleared off and burned, and a variety of native trees and shrubs were then planted. Refreshments were provided for the workers, and were dispensed by Mrs Ford, and the Misses Ford. Mr Garrett was in hopes that the members of the football club would roll up in force and assist in the work, but the followers of the winter pastime got no further than the football grounds. The Volunteer Gymnasium Club was represented by thirteen members, including the instructor, Mr T. Tankard; and Mr G. Lever, Hon. Secretary of the Star Football Club, represented the football element.

TH, AUGUST 17, 1896
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

Tax Board met on Friday night. Present—Messrs Govett (Chairman), Ford, Curkitt, Skinner, Cook, and Hughes.

The caretaker's report was read and discussed.

Mr Roberts applied to top some plants in the grounds. The Board reported they could not accede to the application.

Mrs Standish, on behalf of the Committee of St Mary's Church, applied for leave to hold a floral fete in the Grounds on November 2, and also permission to

make a charge for admission.—Mr Harley, hon. secretary of the Taranaki Athletic Club, also applied for the use of the grounds on November 2 for the purpose of holding an athletic meeting.

Mrs Standish's application was seconded by, on the condition that the Board receive one-fourth of the gate money.—The Board suggested that they could not grant the request of the Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club, as the ladies of St. Mary's had preferred their request some days ago, but the Board would be glad to consider the Club's application for another date.

The thanks of the Board were tendered to Messrs. Lenthorn, Misses Ford, Mrs Collie, Messrs. Baynes, Jnr., Skelton, C. Bennett, R. Cook, and A. Leonard for donations of trees and provisions on Arbor Day; also thanks to the Society Preservation Society, members of the Gymnasium Club, and others who helped on Arbor Day. It was mentioned that 200 trees were planted on Arbor Day.

A sum of 27 17s was received, being net proceeds from the football match Banks and Law v. The Clubs. The Board passed a vote of thanks to the donors.

Mr Curkitt was appointed overseer for the coming month.

The Board declined to give Mr Curkitt permission to cut down plants in the grounds, and to let the section adjoining.

The Board adjourned.

TH, AUGUST 31, 1896

BLIGHT ON CABRAGE TREES
TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—The cabbage-trees lately planted in the Recreation Grounds are suffering from an alarming blight in the shape of myriads of small caterpillars of a pale green color, and of a rather fatish shape, which are destroying the inner part, and most, if unchecked, ultimately destroy the whole tree. The Board have given orders for spraying the trees with kailshera. I noticed to-day that the trees in my private garden are also affected, but these are too large to spray. If any of your readers can suggest any effective remedy, the Recreation Grounds Board and the writer will feel greatly obliged.—I am, Sir,

CLYDE W. GOVETT.

TH, SEPTEMBER 5, 1896
PROMOTING FLORAL FETE

The Sports Ground at the Recreation Grounds has been secured for the 9th of November, for the purpose of holding a Floral Fete. The promoters earnestly ask the support of all town and country friends. The proceeds are for lessening the liabilities pertaining to St. Mary's Church, minus one-fourth of the gate-money, which will be given to the Recreation Grounds. The attractions will be many, and include May Pole dancing, a grand march, punch and jelly show, palmistry, tea, refreshment, and produce tents, baby show. The chief feature will be a procession formed by children in floral array, pony carriages, bicycles with lady and gentleman riders, parrot-balloons, gas-balls, wheelbarrows, and wheeled vehicles of any and every kind, all elaborately decorated with flowers.

TH, SEPTEMBER 7, 1896
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present—Messrs Goveat (chairman), Cook, Corhill, Skinner, and Ford.

The Custodian's report was read and discussed. The report stated that during the month some 500 native plants had been cut in the nursery bed—200 from the Meeting of the Waters, and the balance from Brooklands. The overseer was glad to say that all things are looking well, owing to the pollarding treatment, not one of them having turned a hair. About 50 trees of a larger growth were planted out in the various parts of the grounds during the month. The overseer had to report the failure of the hellebore treatment of the blight in the cabbage trees. He had used dry lime slake, and found it had a much better effect, that of drying up the caterpillar seemingly. The report also referred to ferns growing, &c.

The hon. secretary reported that Mrs Sturlish had agreed to the conditions for holding a Floral Fete in the Grounds on November 11th.

The Board decided that the overseer for the month was Mr W. H. Skinner, representative of the Sports Ground Committee, and arrange, if it is agreeable for the employment of Messrs Edgeworth and Tiplady, to do proposed work in the Ground.

Mr Tiplady will be further employed to complete the ferns cutting in the Grounds.

Correspondence was read between the Chairman and a gentleman residing near the Grounds with reference to unauthorised tree planting by the latter, and after considering the explanation offered it was decided to allow the matter to drop.

The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr F. W. Richmond that his lease of two sections at the top of Gower street had expired, and that he be requested to grab up the farms, &c. and to put the contract forms in order, in accordance with the clauses of his lease, and Mr Corhill was requested to see this carried out.

The Secretary reported that over 1500 native shrubs had been planted in the nurseries during the season.

Mr Ford was appointed overseer for the month.

Mr Wilkie's offer of a pair of black swans was accepted with thanks.

The Board adjourned.

TH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1896
MORE SWANS

The Committee who manage the Sports Ground in the Recreation Houses have decided to attend to the drainage and top dressing. Mr W. H. Skinner, representing the Committee, has approached the Recreation Grounds Board on the matter, and satisfactory arrangements having, it is understood, been entered into.

The Recreation Grounds Board issued to again try the experiment of keeping swans on the lakelets in the ground, and it is to be hoped that frequenters of the reserves will not allow dogs to follow, as these animals have proved dangerous to birds in the past. Mr Wilkie has donated a pair of black swans, which will be liberated in the large sheet of water, and a pair of white birds from Mr Leonard, of Otahuhu, will in the course of a month or so adorn the lower pond.

TH, SEPTEMBER 12, 1896
PLANTS FROM MEETING OF THE
WATERS

EDUCATION HERBERTS BOARD

The Board met on Friday. Present: Messrs Parke (chairman), Beuchop, Corhill, and Stock.

The Board, at the meeting on August 21st, agreed to the donation of the Recreation Grounds taking young seedlings from the Meeting of Waters reserve, under the supervision of Messrs H. King or D. A. Arrowood, respectively. The Board now decided that the permission was only given for one season, and the Board could not in future permit any shrubs or ferns of any description to be removed from the reserve.

TH, SEPTEMBER 23, 1896
SHEEP TREAD GRASS SEED

This sports ground in the Recreation reserve has been sown in places where the grass was patchy. After the sowing a flock of sheep was turned on to the ground to tread the seed spots down. It has been decided not to attempt anything in the direction of drainage till the middle of summer.

TH, OCTOBER 13, 1896
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Board met on Friday night. Present—Messrs Goveat (chairman), Corhill, Hughes, T. E. Skinner, and Ford. The custodian's monthly report was read and discussed. Application was received from Mr G. Endersby, hon secretary of the Taranaki A.A. Association, for use of sports ground on December 3, for holding the club's inaugural meeting. The application was granted on the usual terms, viz, 25 per cent of the gross gate money. The Board thanked Mr T. E. Skinner for his handsome donation of 578 assorted native trees for planting the nursery. Mr Goveat was appointed overseer for the month. Mr Skinner was authorised to employ labor for the cutting of a small tunnel from the swamp.

TH, NOVEMBER 4, 1896

MONDAY, 9th NOVEMBER.

A GRAND FLORAL
FETE

WILL BE HELD IN THE
RECREATION GROUNDS

FOR THE BENEFIT OF ST. MARY'S PARISH. One Fourth of the Gate Money for the Recreation Grounds.

At 130 A Grand Procession of Decorated Carriages, Poles, Mail Coaches, Perambulators, and wheeled vehicles of every description; after this will follow a procession of children in floral attire; to conclude with a grand display of bicycles.

To follow: Mappala Lanes, Grand March, Gipsy Minstrel, Dancing on the Lake, Character Reading in special quarters, Dancing on the Lake.

Special Attractions—A DART SHOW—for infants under nine months and under eighteen months. Races, to be on the ground, to be divided as 1st and 2nd prizes in each class.

Grand March and Judy Show.
 Torchlight Procession of Girls.
 Made by the Town Band.
 Profuse and Refreshment Stalls.
 Afternoon Tea Tents. Every sort of refreshments to be obtained on the grounds.

Three awards will be made in each of the following classes:—
 Best Decorated 4-wheeled Pony Carriage
 " " 2-wheeled Carriage
 " " Bicycle
 " " Tri-cycle
 " " Pony
 " " Go-cart or Perambulator
 " " Miscellaneous Kobbies
 Best Group of Young Ladies in floral costume

Intending exhibitors to be on the ground at 1.30 p.m. precisely.

Reduced fares on the railway lines, 4 p.m. train delayed until 5 p.m.

Contributions to the Profuse or Refreshment Stalls may be left at Mr McKellar's Office, Town Hall, Broadhurst-street, on SATURDAY, November 7th, until 5 p.m.; on MONDAY, 11th, at St. Mary's Schoolroom, Victoria-street, until 11 a.m., or on the grounds.

Admission: Character reading, 1s; Parke and Judy Show, 3d; Dancing on the Lake, 3d; Baby Show, 3d.

Gates open at 2 o'clock.
 Admission cashing; Children half price. 1338

TH, NOVEMBER 10, 1896
FLORAL FETE REVIEW

Our beautiful Recreation Grounds have been the scene of many festivities, but we question whether they have ever looked so gay as they did on Monday, the occasion of the first floral fete ever held in Taranaki. The visitor who had heard this district called the Garden of New Zealand could but acknowledge that the hills were well deserved, for the many gardens had poured forth such a wealth of blossoms as was worth a long journey to see. The weather was perfection itself. From the four-wheeled phaeton manthored with the choicest roses, and with its living freight of pretty girls, down to the humble wheelbarrow, lined with moss, and managaringly borrowed phaeton, all kinds of vehicles were there. The doctor's gig, and the coster's barrow; the spy go-cart with a faithful cousin in the studio, and the family "pony"; the high-spirited steed sporting his silk, and the pet pony with the twins in pannels; the "scorcher" and the bicycle built for two; such a miscellaneous collection of wheeled vehicles was rarely ever gathered together here before, and all gaily decorated with flowers. The procession as it passed round the sports was a beautiful picture. Leading it were the adored twins in their pannels, followed by seven or eight other ponies, ridden by boys and girls; behind these came thirteen or fourteen carriages of one kind or another. Those having twins made the circuit of the ground, the procession of children followed, led by a young Maori chief, who was attended by a score of little girls in frilly cos-

boxes, and carrying garlands of flowers; behind these came the gnomes, the first two of which were drawn by dogs; a dozen others drawn by children followed, and then came one drawn by four little girls in white, driven by a little, an especially pretty one next; another score of go-carts and perambulators came next, and then a boat on wheels drawn by several little boys; a pony trap drawn by a dozen little girls brought up the rear of the wheeled vehicles, and to these succeeded some 150 little children stacked with flowers, and many of them carrying posies. We must not forget Mr. Parach's equipage, drawn by that worthy himself, assisted by a policeman, and carrying his faithful spouse Judy and the baby. This turn out supplied the comic element. Hearty applause was bestowed by spectators on the various vehicles as they passed round to the straits of the Town Band under Bandmaster Garry. The children were of the way a procession of bicycles, led by Miss Avery, in a French costume, followed.

During the procession the judges awarded the prizes as follows:—Best decorated four-wheeler, the Misses Hobbsworth's; Mr. W. Ambury's; Best decorated two-wheeler, Miss Carrie Bayly and Miss Nellie Hardsom's; Miss Lydia Vesley's; Miss Margaret Hardsom's and Miss Helen's. Best decorated pony, Mr. T. Callaghan's Percy, ridden by Walter Francis; Miss Clarice Bates's Chippy, owned by S. Mr. G. W. Gassell's Gemmy, Mr. R. H. Shaw's terms in the garden, &c. For the best decorated go-cart, a first-class award and decorated by Miss O'Callaghan decorated with first prize. Four little girls, Misses Alice Fraser, G. and Miss O'Callaghan, Browne House, and three boys, ridden by Miss Gladys Kay, all dressed in pure white, drew a beautifully decorated cart. Mrs. F. W. Hardsom's cart was second, and Miss E. Hardsom's third. In the class for the best group of young ladies in floral costumes Misses E. Webster, I. Cotter, C. Douglas, and E. Hardsom were awarded first prize.

After the procession the grand march was executed by about 150 little girls under the guidance of Mrs. Goldwater, who must have gone to a lot of trouble to train them. A maypole dance by a number of gaily dressed girls, who had been taught by Miss Bedford, followed, and was warmly appreciated. There were various side shows, including a Parach and Judy show, a baby show, character reading, &c. Boating on the lake was indulged in by a large number of youngsters. There were steam entries for the baby show, which resulted as follows: Babies under six months, Nellie and Milda Tipshy, twins, 1st; Beatrice Parent, 2nd. Over six and under eighteen months, Dorothy Rowson, 1st; Clarence Roberts, 2nd.

Refreshments were provided at special or special stalls, which did a roaring trade.

In the evening the chief attraction was the Dutch torchlight procession. Singing on the lake by a musical party, fireworks, and other amusements were kept up until about ten o'clock.

The attendance was variously estimated at from 8000 to 4000, and the latter figure cannot have been far out, for the gate money amounted to £100, in addition to which some £50 was taken at the stalls and side shows.

The event was one which will be remembered by those who took part in it, and the greatest credit is due to those who worked so hard to bring it to a successful result. Among those who should be specially mentioned are Messrs. Mansfield, Walker, McKellar, Day, Skinner, Robinson, Dempsey, Rowson, Doherty, Misses Grevitt, John, Harsom, O'Callaghan, and Hardsom. Mr. W. B. Skinner assisted with the secretarial duties.

TH, NOVEMBER 11, 1896 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At the last meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board there were present: Messrs. Grevitt (chairman), Skinner, Cook, and Ford (hon. sec.). The committee's report was read and discussed. Mr. B. White, of Brisbane, wrote offering donation of a parcel of Egyptian lilies and water-lilies. The Board decided to accept the offer with thanks. The thanks of the Board were tendered to Archibald Grevitt and Mr. B. Grevitt for their donation of funds to plant the best stock. The secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Cook calling his attention to the great growth of lilies, &c., in the paddock excepted by him. The thanks of the Board were tendered to Mr. W. Grevitt for his handsome donation of some just and lamp for erection at the Lizard-street entrance.

TH, NOVEMBER 14, 1896 INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE T. A. A. C.

TARANAKI AMATEUR ATHLETIC AND CYCLING CLUB.

THE INAUGURAL MEETING
of the above Club will be held in the
RECREATION GROUNDS.

THURSDAY, December 3.

Entries for various events close on
the 17th inst.

Programme of events will appear
shortly.

C. E. ENDERBY,
Hon. Sec.

TH, NOVEMBER 19, 1896 MONEY FROM FLORAL FETE

Mr. Harris Ford, hon. secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board, acknowledges herefor £25 12s from Mr. J. S. McKellar being the fourth share of gate money taken at the late Floral Fete.

TH, DECEMBER 10, 1896 CYCLE TRACK PROPOSAL

Now that cycling has become so popular a form of amusement, the want of a good cycling track is making itself felt, and the situation of a few enthusiasts is being turned to the matter of providing one. Naturally the thoughts first turn to the Recreation Grounds, as being the most central and adaptable situation; in fact, the only really suitable place within easy reach of town. The chief drawback to the sports ground for cycling purposes is that it is too small, but we understand that for a moderate outlay the area of the ground could be considerably extended, thus making it all

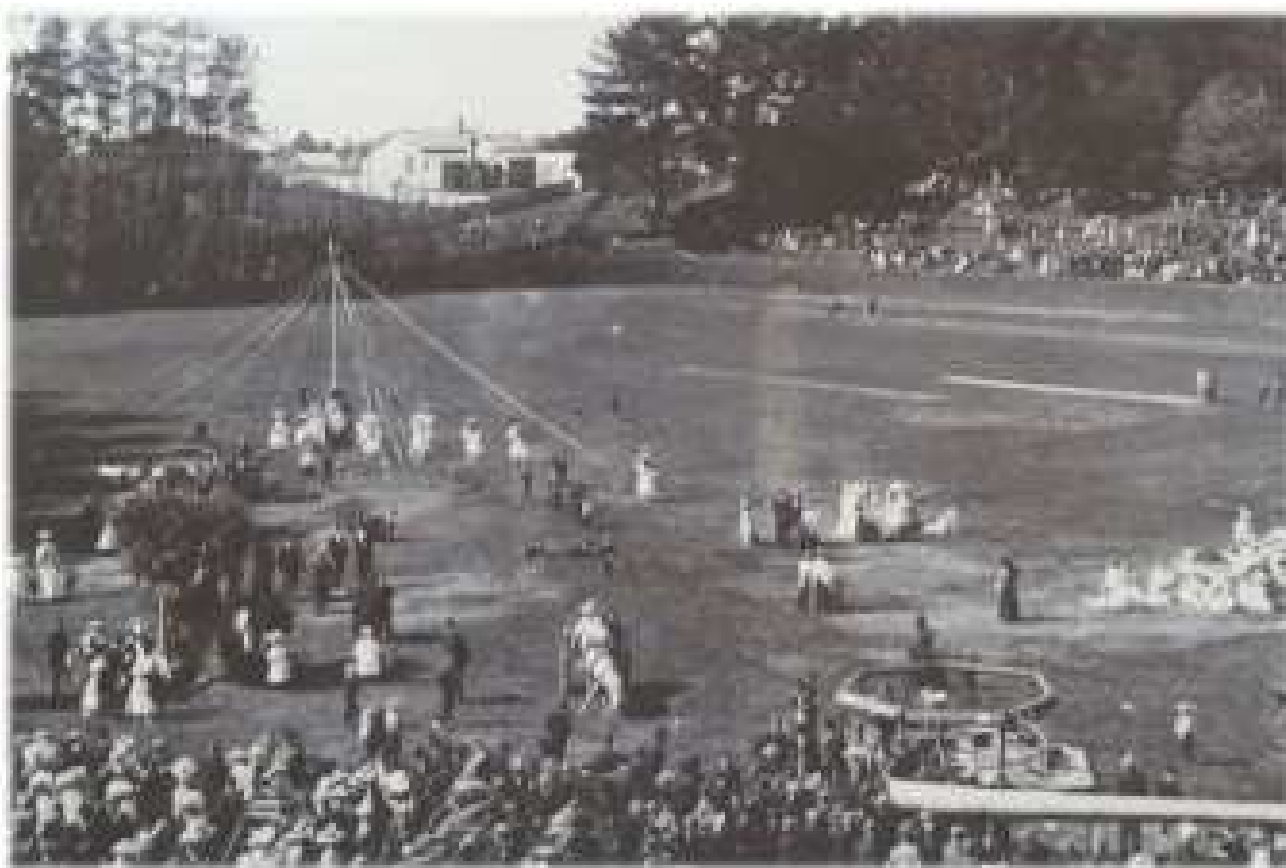
the more suitable for cricket, football, and other sports. The scheme which has been formulated and which will shortly be laid before the authorities, provides, we believe, for the removal of the hill on the right of the Lizard-street entrance. A large portion of the earth would be used to raise the level of the ground, which would also tend to make it drier in the winter. The entrance gate would be removed a chain or so to the right. If some such scheme as this should meet with the approval of the Board, the cyclists are prepared, we believe, to lay down a track, which would be second to none in New Zealand, and would add to the attractions of the grounds without any way marring their natural beauty. The possession of such a track would draw cyclists from far and near, and make the annual sports here one of the most popular athletic features in the North Island. What is required now is for some one to take the initiative, by calling together the various athletic clubs, and preparing a definite scheme to lay before the Recreation Grounds Board, whose permission will no doubt be readily granted.

TH, DECEMBER 24, 1896 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A special meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Tuesday evening to consider an application from the United Sunday Schools Committee for permission to hold their annual picnic in the grounds on January 21st. The application was accepted, on the understanding that every care is exercised by the teachers to prevent any damage to the grounds; the Board to receive 25 per cent. of the gross gate money. A letter was read from Mr. E. T. White, of Brisbane, stating that he was forwarding an assortment of lilies. Mr. Carleton, President of the Star Football Club, wrote asking on what terms the Board would grant a lease of the Sports Ground. Consideration was held over until next meeting of the Board. The Star Club was granted the use of the Sports Ground on Easter Monday for the annual sports, on the usual terms. The members present were Messrs. C. W. Grevitt (chairman), R. Cook, R. C. Hughes, T. E. Skinner, and Harris Ford.

TH, NOVEMBER 11, 1896 FLORAL DISPLAY

A feature of the decorations at the Recreation Grounds on Monday was the floral display at the main entrance gate in Lizard-street, which was the work of Mrs. Hall and the Misses Jackson.



Maypole Dance at Floral Fete 1896 (Puke Ariki ARC2003-859/3)

1897

The Sports Ground Committee that was set up in late 1889 had a mandate to develop the sports ground to a point where it could be used for most sports including rugby and cricket. At the end of seven years they felt they had achieved their goal, so dissolved the committee and handed over the running of the Sports Ground back to the Recreation Ground Board. When they took over the area it was a partially filled swamp not fit for any sport. By 1892 they had played the first game of cricket and 1893 the first provincial rugby game. The terraces were still minimal, the most developed being the southern terrace occupying four rows of seating.

A major celebration in 1897 was Queen Victoria's Jubilee. There were several events in the park but the one that stands out was the unveiling of the Jubilee Drinking Fountain. The fountain was the idea of G W Browne a member of the outgoing Sports Ground Committee. The committee had some cash on hand when they disbanded so started a fund to build a fountain. Browne, the owner of a fancy goods shop was responsible for the production of chinaware displaying scenes of the Recreation Ground.

When the location of the fountain was decided it was mentioned that this was where an unsuccessful attempt had been made to reconstruct a whale skeleton using a sketch by Dr Hector. The whale bones were subsequently displayed on Cannon Hill (see photo 1893).

The Board had a windfall, receiving £106 17s 5d, the proceeds of the Martha King estate after she died. Martha was a renowned botanical artist and considered to be New Zealand's first resident botanical artist. Some of her work is at the National Library as part of the Alexander Turnbull Collection.

Because the Sports Ground had been handed back to the Board, they decided to employ an assistant custodian to help maintain it. Robert Mace was appointed in March of 1897. Mace later took over from Edgecome as custodian.

A changing room was built near the sports field thanks partially to a donation from Tukapa Football Club and H. Roberts who offered his services free of charge. The curator also helped with the construction. Until that time sports people had been using the bathing house as a changing room.

Some of the donations this year included: ferns from Miss Redman, two garden seats from Mr Ricketts, and two Black Swans from Mr Hooker of Nelson.

Summary of significant events

- Dissolution of Sports Committee.
- Queen Victoria's Jubilee Fountain unveiling.
- Dressing room built for the Sports Ground.
- Martha King leaves estate to Recreation Ground Board.
- Robert Mace appointed assistant curator.



Fountain Lake and Sports Ground 1897. Minimal eastern terraces . (NPDC Parks Dept)

TH, FEBRUARY 8, 1897
CUSTODIAN TOLD TO SHOOT DOGS

Owing to complaints about dogs attacking the swans in the lake at the Recreation Grounds, the Board have instructed the custodian to shoot all offending dogs.

TH, FEBRUARY 15, 1897
DEATH OF ANNIE WAY

YOUNG WOMAN'S BODY FOUND
FLOATING.

The body of a young woman was found floating in the upper lagoon at the Recreation Grounds by the custodian, Mr G. Edgewood, between 9 and 2 o'clock this (Monday) morning. The body which was fully clothed, was identified as that of a young woman named Annie Way, eldest daughter of Mr J. Way, book-maker, of Duncannon-street. The deceased, it is stated, had been missing for four days.

Constable Grey proceeded to the lagoon, and removed the body to the morgue.

FURTHER PARTICULARS

It is stated that the deceased left service three weeks ago, and went to reside with a friend, Mrs Kyles, in Hulst-street. On Wednesday night last it is stated she left Mrs Kyles's residence stating she intended to destroy herself. No notice appears to have been taken of this threat till Saturday, when Mr Way, her father, having been apprised of his daughter's disappearance, spoke to Constable Grey about the deceased. On Sunday Constable Lister made searching enquiries about the young woman, and came to the conclusion that she must have left the town as no tidings could be learned.

This (Monday) morning Mr Edgewood, the custodian of the Grounds, saw the body of a woman floating in the big lagoon about half-way between the bridge and bathing house. The police were communicated with, and Constable Grey went up and with assistance brought the body to the shore, and removed it to the morgue. The body which was identified as that of the missing girl, Annie Way, was very much decomposed, having been in the water several days. The deceased was 20 years of age. The body was fully clothed, the dress being of a fine material. There was a large bruise over one eye.

Doc. O'Connell and Denton made a post-mortem at the Morgue, the result of which would be given at the inquest.

An inquest into the circumstances surrounding the case was held at the hospital at 2:30 o'clock this (Monday) afternoon before Mr J. J. French, J.P., Acting-Coroner.

TH, FEBRUARY 25, 1897
DISSOLUTION OF SPORTS
COMMITTEE

RECREATION GROUNDS SPORTS
COMMITTEE.

The Committee met on Tuesday. Present: Messrs H. Dempsey (Chairman), S. N. MacFarland, G. W. Brown, W. Bennett, F. Watson, and W. H. Skinner (Hon. Sec.).

The Secretary was authorized to refund the amount disbursed on debenture No. 11.

The Committee decided that the balance of funds in the hands of the Committee be expended in buying on water from the

through supply and in the erection of a small drinking fountain in the Recreation Grounds, and that Messrs MacFarland and Brown be asked to make arrangements and carry out this proposal.

It was decided that falling arrangements being made with the Amateur Athletic Society for the sale of the property of this committee the proposition be tabled over to the Recreation Board.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr W. H. Skinner for the way he carried out the secretarial duties during the past seven years. Mr Skinner in retiring said it was now over seven years since the committee was formed for the purpose of collecting what was known as the money in the Recreation Grounds. By dint of perseverance and hard work they had carried through what they had set themselves to do, and could now at the expiration of their lease hand over to the Recreation Board the sports ground free of debt. The Committee had worked well together, and although at times considerable friction had arisen between the Committee and individual members of the Recreation Grounds Board, that Board as a body had worked loyally with them. Since the formation of this Committee in October, 1889, a sum of 1175 had been raised by aid of subscriptions, donations, gate money, etc., at athletic and other gatherings. During the same period there had been expended on the sports ground, that is in maintaining it from a swampy waste and making it as it was once to-day, a sum of 140. The balance had gone to pay for prize money at athletic gatherings, advertising, band, gate men, and other expenses. Now that the grounds are fit for football and mixed sports a steady revenue can, we think, be secured on. The average from these sources for the last four years has been at the rate of £20 per annum.

The Committee fully decided that the lease from the Recreation Grounds Board having expired the Sports Committee be dissolved.

This concluded the business.

TH, MARCH 6, 1897
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Dewett (Chairman), Gerrill, Ford (Hon. Sec.), Hughes, Newman, and Skinner.

The Custodian's monthly report on work done and needed was read. He directed notice to the spread of rat tail on the lawn.

The Secretary acknowledged receipt of £1 1s from the committee of the Catholic school.

Mr P. H. Carthage, President of the Star Football Club, applied for a lease of the sports ground for the club. After a lengthy discussion the Board resolved, that the Board having carefully considered Mr Carthage's application on behalf of the Star Football Club for a lease of the sports grounds, have decided to retain the entire control of the ground.

The Custodian reported an act of vandalism by the boys from the Central school while using the bathing shed. The conduct of the boys will be brought under the notice of the local constable.

The Chairman, Secretary, and Overseer were appointed a sub-committee to call for applications and appoint an assistant to the custodian at a wage of 21 per week.

The balance-sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1896, was read and adopted. It showed the outlay for the year was £225, and receipts £171. The overdraft at that date stood at £54 10s 8d.

The outgoing Chairman was requested to draw up a report on the work done during his year of office.

Mr W. L. Newman was unanimously elected Chairman for the coming year.

The Secretary stated that Mr R. T. White, of Queensland, had forwarded a package of postcards ready sent.

Mr Newman was appointed overseer for the month.

The Board decided that this Board cannot afford the occasion of the giving up of the Sports Ground to pass without placing on record its sense of the very great services rendered to the Board by the Sports Committee during the seven years of its existence. When the Committee was formed that part of the Grounds near Llandan-street was an unprofitable swamp, and with the exception of a little, though expensive, filling in, nothing had been done to reclaim it. But now, owing to the energy, enterprise, skill, and liberality of the Committee an athletic ground has been formed which in every respect is unequalled in the colony, and the revenue from which it is hoped will enable other good work to be undertaken. The Board specially thank the following persons who have distinguished themselves by their services viz., Mr W. H. Skinner, the indefatigable secretary, Mr H. Dempsey, the chairman, and Mr G. W. Brown, and the leading members of the Committee.

Accounts were passed and the Board adjourned.

TH, MARCH 10, 1897
WANTED ASSISTANT CUSTODIAN

APPPLICATIONS for ASSISTANT TO CUSTODIAN in Recreation Grounds will be received up to noon of SATURDAY, the 14th inst.—Particulars on application to HARRIS FORD, Hon. Sec. 100

TH, MARCH 16, 1897
ROBERT MACE APPOINTED
ASSISTANT

The Recreation Grounds Board has appointed Mr R. H. Mace assistant caretaker of the grounds.

TH, MARCH 26, 1897
ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OUTGOING CHAIRMAN.

It has been for some years the custom of the Board to expect from the outgoing Chairman a report for the past year, and to invite him to make public any remarks he may think desirable, allowing him considerable latitude in so doing, as the Board feels sure that what is said by one who has filled the office of chairman, though it may not meet with the entire approval of the Board in its corporate capacity, will not at any rate very materially misrepresent its views, for it is well known that the members of the Board have always worked harmoniously together.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

The total receipts for the year amounted to £163 4s 3d, while the expenditure was £221 10s. Under the head of receipts, the principal items are—Borough subsidy, £80; Charities' donation, £17; annual subscriptions, £39 10s; two donations, £9 12s; contribution box, £1 5s 3d; Road £6s; £35 5s; and proceeds of one football match, £8 4s.

With the exception of £12 17s 6d paid for interest, and £10 5s for timber obtained about two years ago, nearly the whole of the expenditure is accounted for under the item wages, or reducing the overdraft which at the end of the year stood at £51 10s 8d, but which unfortunately has risen somewhat rapidly again.

The members of the Board naturally wish to be as "progressive" as the district, and recent being hampered and harassed for want of funds. Instead of being able to improve the grounds as they would like to do, they have been compelled to forego improvements that they consider necessary and have had time after time to make use of miserable temporary expedients which in the long run cost far more than first-rate lasting work would do. For this want of money the non-subscribing public and not the Board is responsible.

I consider that the Borough subsidy of £80 is not sufficient; it is generally supposed that the Board gets the proceeds of a halfpenny rate and this was once the case, but now that the rateable value of the town has increased and the halfpenny rate brings in more than £80 the Borough Council keeps the balance. A rate has one advantage, namely, that it does not fall upon a few but upon the majority of those who by themselves or their families use the grounds.

I suppose that no one will deny that our beautiful grounds are the cause of a good deal of money being spent within the Borough, and personally I think a subsidy of £100 would be little enough to expect. As has been pointed out by our successive Chairmen, the public do very little to support the grounds, and if it were not for the generosity of a comparatively small number of persons we should never have what the public are so proud of.

On behalf of the Board I must warmly thank our regular subscribers of 10s a year, who, I am thankful to say, have risen from 41 to 77 though I think we ought to have at least 125, but I live in hopes of seeing "employees" as well as "employers" doing something for the Board and think it disgraceful that our young men and young women should not consider it their duty to be annual subscribers of some ten up to 50.

Though many thousands made use of the grounds during the past year, the contribution box only showed £1 5s 3d.

At the same time instead of putting money into the contribution box I would rather see people sending money regularly to the secretary, and the Board would warmly appreciate the services of persons who would help them to glass in this hitherto unproductive field.

LIABILITIES.

The individual members of the Board are personally liable for about £133, as the six of the last piece of cemented water (£125) is still unpaid for, and besides the overdraft there are a number of accounts which are not settled, and I for one do not consider this quite fair. If the public are so proud of the grounds as they profess to be, let us have something more tangible than pride to work upon.

Delays have been given for the painting of the large bridge, which has been somewhat damaged by the want of timely expenditure. A new expensive culvert or tunnel must be made near the sports ground, as the present temporary one has become very dangerous, and whatever happens a good deal must be spent in fence grubbing, and if any improvements are wanted additional money must be supplied, as the ordinary expenses for the present year will most certainly exceed those of the past.

The Board have now the responsibility of the sports ground thrown upon them, and wish to secure and improve that generous legacy, which the late Sports Committee have left them. With a view to this the services of an additional caretaker have been engaged, and the Board hope, by means of increased gate money, to pay wages, though they do not disguise that the making of new grounds elsewhere may materially affect their earnings.

I feel assured that the Board would like to see the grounds kept free on most of the public holidays and half-holidays, but so long as their income is so small they are obliged to acquiesce in a charge being made of over ten times what would otherwise approve.

Certain members of the Board will no doubt be appointed to survey for the annual subscription of 10s, which becomes due on the 31st March, and I venture to express a hope that those who have helped us in the past will valiantly send in their subscriptions to the Secretary, without waiting for the surveyors who will then have more time to look up new subscribers.

It is possible that some persons who intended to subscribe last year omitted to send their subscriptions, and if so, it is not too much to expect that they will send in both together, and not take advantage of their own carelessness.

CLEMENT GOVETT,
late Chairman.

TH, APRIL 5, 1897 THE POET'S BRIDGE REPAIR

At the last Recreation Ground Board meeting Major Harris was thanked for his donation of £5 to the funds; and to Mr Sanderson for preparing specifications and supervising the work at the Poet's Bridge.

TH, APRIL 5, 1897 PAINTING THE POET'S BRIDGE

The Recreation Grounds Board have accepted Mr J. Hallinger's tender at £1 17s for painting the Poet's bridge.

TH, APRIL 15, 1897 BLACK SWANS DONATED

Mr Harris Ford, Hon. Sec. of the Recreation Grounds Board, begs to acknowledge the donation of a pair of black swans from Mr Sam Hooker, of Nelson.

TH, MAY 10, 1897 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs W. L. Newman (chairman), W. H. Skinner, Harris Ford, R. G. Hughes, C. W. Govett, and F. F. Corbett.

The Town Board will be allowed to give a concert in the Grounds on May 24th, on the understanding that no gate-money be charged, but that the Board may

take up a collection in the neighbourhood of the Band-stand and not near the gates; the Board to receive one-fourth of such collection.

The Takapa Club applied for permission to hold matches on the ground, and the Board decided, "That permission be granted to the Takapa Club to hold matches in the grounds upon the usual terms, namely, 25 per cent. of the gate-money; it being understood that those persons who enter at the Carrington Road and Blacklands entrances, and who state that they do not come in for the purpose of seeing the football matches, shall be allowed free entrance upon their personal assurance of this. The Board also expect the Club to help them in preventing damage to the banks, and reserve the right to revoke this permission if damage is done."

With reference to football practice the Board decided, "That football practice be allowed upon condition that 10s per afternoon be paid to the Board, this sum being the least that will pay the Board for supervision and repairing damages."

The Board acknowledged the following donations: Mrs Bissett for two garden seats, Mr G. Smart for a new contribution box, Mr Sam Hooker (Nelson) for a pair of black swans.

Messrs Newman, Skinner, Govett, and Ford were appointed a committee to confer with Mr G. W. Browne as to position for a fountain which that gentleman and others propose to erect on the grounds.

The chairman's report was read, and Mr Skinner was appointed secretary for the month. This concluded the business.

TH, MAY 12, 1897 FOUNTAIN LOCATION FIXED

On Monday Messrs Newman, Skinner, Govett and Ford (members of the recreation Board) and Messrs N. K. McDiarmid and G. W. Browne executors of the Old Sports Committee visited the grounds for the purpose of fixing on a site for the fountain, which is to be erected to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Record Reign. The site fixed on is on the piece of ground which an attempt was made to reconstruct the skeleton of a whale. The executors of the Old Sports Committee have about £13 on hand which will form the nucleus of the fund and the balance of the cost which will be about £50 will be raised by public subscription. The fountain, the plan of which Mr Browne has in his possession, will stand 12ft high, and will be on marble columns with marble facings.

TH, MAY 13, 1897 FERN DONATION

The Hon. Sec. of the Recreation Grounds, Mr Harris Ford, desires to thank Miss R. Hadman for a donation of a choice collection of native ferns.

TH, JUNE 11, 1897 FOUNTAIN PROGRESS

The erection of the Record Reign Fountain in the Recreation Grounds is progressing rapidly and satisfactorily under Mr G. W. Browne's supervision. Mr Browne, however, states that the subscriptions are coming in rather slowly, and in order to meet liabilities on the fountain before the unveiling he would like all intending subscribers to forward their donations without delay.

TH, JUNE 10, 1897

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22.

MONSTER PROCESSION at 10 o'clock. UNVEILING DRINKING FOUNTAIN

FOOTBALL MATCH

ROYAL SALUTE

BONFIRES

BRELLIANT ILLUMINATIONS

At 8, 9, and 10.

Special Trains will be arranged.

Admission to the Recreation Grounds FREE.

G. R. DUNNINGTON, Secy.

1897

TH, JUNE 15, 1897

SUMMARY OF LAND PURCHASES

1897.—A good deal of my correspondence exists with regard to the position of the Recreation Grounds Board, which I trust I shall be able to clear up. The Board was appointed by special act in 1874, and the greater part of the present grounds consisting of about forty-one acres, was then vested in them. Located among the various tracts were certain sections belonging to private individuals, and the Act provided that the public streets which intersected the grounds were not to be closed until the owners of the sections adjoining the public streets consented. This consent there was no hope of ever getting, and the Board have from time to time been forced to acquire the freehold. Shortly after the appointment of the Board in 1874 Nos. 1772 and 1176 near Halsey's old house were purchased at a cost of £27 14s and £99. A section on which the cemetery is situated had next to be purchased from Mr. Gresham at a cost of £48, another section near Mr. Dingle's house on the Gorington Road was purchased for £25 plus an exchange, and lastly another section just above the sports ground was purchased at £14 10s from Mr. H. Bayley. There is no reasonable possibility of the Board ever acquiring any more land except the section on generously leased by Mr. Foston with a purchasing price of £285 and probably another section which is under offer to the Board for £25, and which the Board require it is not in a position at present to accept. There who are not in favor of the resolution passed at the public meeting called to consider the best mode of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee represent that the Board authorized a survey for the purpose of paying off debts and satisfactorily closing the real purpose, which is to acquire the freehold. Surely this is no lasting way of commemorating the Jubilee in any other scheme suggested. With the narrow income of the Board it speaks volumes that so much capital expenditure has been made out of the income, and it is not fair to state that "if the Board is placed out of debt they will be sure to go to sleep again," and those who try to persuade the public not to support the purchase of the freehold, giving this as their reason, are not acting fairly. I doubt whether any public Board has ever been placed in a more difficult position and yet been able to accomplish so much. And there can be no question that the Board has acted wisely in the acquisition of the different freeholds.—L. B. B.

A MEMBER OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS BOARD.

TH, JUNE 23, 1897 UNVEILING THE FOUNTAIN

After the ceremony on the Sports Grounds the large assembly moved towards the head of the upper lake, and took up positions in order to view the proceedings in connection with the unveiling of the new drinking fountain, which has been erected near the lower grounds. The gentlemen taking part in the proceedings and the Press representatives took up their positions inside a temporary building that had been erected around the fountain.

Mr. MacDiarmid opened the proceedings on behalf of the Sports Committee. He stated that the fountain had been erected by subscriptions not only from the newspapers but also by the citizens of the whole district; and he especially wished to state that the school children throughout the district had expended generously with their pennies in assisting a memorial in commemoration of the great day that they were then celebrating. (Applause.) Great credit he added, was due to Mr. G. W. Brown, who had initiated the idea and had worked hard and well in carrying the project to a successful issue. (Applause.) On behalf of the Sports Committee, Mr. MacDiarmid then called on Mr. H. Brown, M.H.E., to conduct the unveiling ceremony.

Mr. H. Brown, who was received with applause, said that they had assembled together to witness the unveiling of a fountain that had been erected to commemorate a lasting memory a great day in the history of our nation. (Applause.) On this day wherever there were English speaking communities there would be similar gatherings to celebrate an unique event in the history of our nation—the completion of the sixtieth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who had established a record by reigning over the Empire a longer period than any preceding British Sovereign. Her Majesty's reign had been a glorious one. (Applause.) It had been marked by the continuance of peace, for only once during the sixty years had the nation been involved in a European war; all other engagements having been of a frontier character in extending the boundaries of the Empire. Wherever the British name had been engaged they had worthily upheld the traditions of our race, and the reputation of our soldiers and sailors. (Applause.) The sixty years had been famous for all that pertained to a period of peace. He referred to the statesmen, lawyers, the advances of science, art, agriculture, merchants, spread of manufactures, and the general advancement that marked the Victorian era. (Applause.) It was the highest period in our history, and eclipsed any epoch in any previous country's history known to modern times. (Applause.) With regard to Her Majesty the speaker said that he need not dilate on the manifold virtues and qualities that Her Majesty had displayed during her long and successful reign. Her sympathies had always been with the weak and the sorrowful of her subjects, and through all her reign Her Majesty had proved herself a model wife, mother, and sovereign. (Applause.) In all matters of State Her Majesty had exercised a sound

judgment, as no official documents had been sent from the leading departments unless they had been read over and explained to Her Majesty before she signed them. In some cases Her Majesty had insisted on alterations or modifications of the wording where she considered it was too harsh or stringent in the terms, and on one occasion Her Majesty by her practical and foresight had averted what might have proved a serious war. He referred to what was known as the Trent affair. A despatch that had been prepared by Lord Palmerston for transmission to the United States was modified on the advice of Her Majesty, and thus a serious complication was averted that might have happened if the document had been forwarded as at first drawn out. This would show that Her Majesty had been more than the mere ornamental head of our Empire. He urged on the children assembled, and he was glad to see so many present, to remember that they belonged to and formed part of a great nation, and that in the course of their career they should do nothing not consistent with anything that would lessen the lustre of the name of the Empire. He exhorted them to remember the traditions and deeds of our soldiers and sailors, and to act in accordance therewith. In referring to the fountain that had been erected to commemorate such an important period in our history, Mr. Brown said he was pleased to state that the public throughout the district had come forward with their subscriptions for the purpose, and he especially referred to many old settlers who had come forward in a liberal manner, especially the father of the settlement, Mr. F. A. Carrington. (Applause.)

Mr. Brown then unveiled the fountain, and three ringing cheers were given by the public assembled.

A hearty cheer was also accorded Mr. G. W. Brown.

Mr. H. Brown, M.H.E., amidst applause, then quaffed the first drink from the fountain.

Mr. W. L. Newman, the Chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, in reply, thanked the subscribers to the fountain, which would be an enduring link that would connect the present and the future about the great day of Jubilation. (Applause.) He specially thanked Mr. G. W. Brown, and Mr. N. E. MacDiarmid for the part they had taken in establishing such a fitting and lasting memorial. In conclusion Mr. Newman apologized for the absence of the Maori head and Maori dancers from the day's proceedings, the absence having been caused by the holding of a large tangi at Paritaka.

The marble dedication slab bears the inscription:—"Erected to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, 1897." The fountain is not yet finished. It. Messrs G. W. Brown and N. E. MacDiarmid were the treasurers for the fund; Mr. J. Russell was the contractor for the work, and Mr. J. Abbott had the work of connecting the fountain with the town water supply.

TH, JUNE 21, 1897
FUNDRAISING FOR LAND PURCHASE

RECREATION GROUNDS.

CONTRIBUTIONS in aid of the Fund for Purchasing the Lower Lake Site will be thankfully received by our travelling representatives in the Grounds on Tuesday.

HARRIS FORD,
Hon. Sec.

6444

TH, JULY 3, 1897
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The monthly meeting was held on Friday night. Present: Messrs W. L. Newman (Chairman), Govett, Hughes, Ford, Cook, and Skinner.

The custodian's reports for the months of May and June were read and discussed.

The Board, on the application of the Takapa Football Club, reduced the charge for the use of the ground for practice from 10s to 5s for the balance of the season.

The Board decided to erect a dressing room near the sports ground. The Takapa Football Club were offering a donation of £2 towards the cost. The Club was thanked for the donation.

Mr A. Neilson, of Tarata, will be thanked for a donation of native shrubs.

Mr Cook was appointed overseer for the month.

Leave of absence was granted to Mr Corhill.

The thanks of the Board were tendered to Mr G. Bennett for his donation of £2 5s.

Accounts were passed.
The Board adjourned.

TH, JULY 20, 1897
DRESSING ROOM BUILT

A much needed improvement has been effected in the Recreation Grounds in the shape of a dressing house near the football and sports ground. The shed was built by Mr H. Roberts, who gave his services free of charge, being assisted by the custodian of the Grounds. The expenses connected with the erection was borne by the Recreation Grounds Board assisted by the Takapa Football Club.

TH, AUGUST 13, 1897
MARTHA KING BEQUEST

The Secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board acknowledges the receipt of £50, through Mr C. W. Govett, the executor of the late Miss Martha King. The deceased left the whole of her personal estate to the Recreation Grounds Board, whom she appointed residuary legatee, but owing to calls made by the Bank of New Zealand they do not receive as much as she intended. It is hoped that the Board will receive at least another £30 or 40 as soon as the estate is completely realized. The deceased was an enthusiastic gardener, and as she had no relatives in the world, the legacy was as appropriate as acceptable.

TH, SEPTEMBER 4, 1897
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Newman (Chairman), Cook, Corhill, Govett, Skinner, and Hughes.

The custodian's monthly report was read.

Mr Guthrie forwarded £15, Board's share of gate from Auckland-Taranaki football match, and asked for a reduction, which the Board declined to make.

The Board will make no objection to fully decorated vehicles entering the Sports Ground on the occasion of the next floral fete.

Miss King's legacy will be applied to reduction of mortgage on the 183d parcel from Mr Footes. The Board also decided that the Commissioner of Stamps be respectfully requested to remit the duty payable by the Board on the residuary estate of the late Miss Martha King, inasmuch as the Board, the duty of 12s per cent being accordingly high in such a case.

The thanks of the Board were tendered to Messrs Standish and Kerr for the donation of 12 lb.

The Chairman and Mr Hughes were instructed to take steps to replace iron plates on The Post's Bridge, commemorating the gift of the bridge by the late Mr J. T. Davis.

Mr Corhill was appointed overseer for the ensuing month.

The Borough Council will be asked to permit the erection of a temporary fence on a part of Fifth-street to protect the beds of shrubs the Board propose planting.

Accounts were passed, and the Board adjourned.

TH, SEPTEMBER 7, 1897
MARTHA KING BEQUEST

Mr H. Ford, hon. sec. of the Recreation Grounds, acknowledges a second donation of £50, per Mr C. W. Govett, from the estate of the late Miss M. King.

TH, SEPTEMBER 9, 1897

FLOREAL FETE.

The above will be held in the
Recreation Grounds

ON THE
9TH OF NOVEMBER.

PARTICULARS IN FUTURE ISSUES.

6430

TH, SEPTEMBER 22, 1897
MARTHA KING BEQUEST

The Secretary of the Recreation Ground Board begs to acknowledge donation of £5 17s 5d from Mr C. W. Govett, being final payment from the estate of the late Miss King.

TH, SEPTEMBER 28, 1897
FLOREAL FETE COMMITTEE

The Floral Fete Committee met on Monday evening in St. Mary's school-room and a lot of detail business was gone through. The programme as arranged by the sub-committee was agreed to. A discussion arose over awarding money prizes in the competitive classes, the majority thought an award of merit would meet the case better than the small money prizes that could be offered. The members of the Recreation Grounds Board will be asked to assist at the gates on the day. The railway authorities have been written to asking that the usual afternoon train going should be delayed until 6.30 p.m. on 9th November. Numerous other details were discussed. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in the Recreation Grounds on Wednesday, 6th October, at 8 p.m., to arrange for the sites of provision, lunch, and afternoon tea stalls, etc.

1898

Due to there being no records from the *Taranaki Herald* for the first six months of 1898 there is less known about this period. What is clear is that the Board was still in financial difficulties. Another Floral Fete was organised to try and bolster the coffers, and it was a huge success netting the Board around £150, enough to pay off most of their debts. They still owned money on sections bought but not paid for. The people they purchased sections from must have been easy going. At the floral fete there were several different types of decorated vehicles such as: perambulators, dray, two wheeled gigs, bicycles, tricycles, and wheelbarrows. Also go-carts, some drawn by dogs, some by children and others by goats.

Another fundraising event was a lecture by Saynor Griffiths entitled “Whenuaru” (trembling land) raising £25 4s. A notable feature of the lecture was that it was illustrated with limelight views. Limelight was a 19th century method of creating an intense point source of white light, leading to the saying, “in the limelight”.

The hatching of four young swans was a pleasant addition to the grounds and led to a renewed call to control stray dogs.

One aspect of the Recreation Ground doing well was the nursery, bolstered by a donation of two thousand native plants from T. K. Skinner, followed soon after by another fifteen hundred by a donor who wanted to remain anonymous. Water lilies were abundant in the lakes, so the Board advertised them for sale to raise funds.

Summary of significant events

- Large collection of native trees and bushes was donated by T. K. Skinner.
- Floral Fete
- Death of Darby Claffey.

TH, JULY 2, 1898
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday night. Present: Messrs Newman (chairman), Gorret, Ford, and Corkill. The custodian reported that a good number of the native trees were growing, some of the most valuable—such as the miro, oia, and rima—doing very well. The nursery work was in full swing, some 2000 odd native plants, received from Mr T. K. Skinner, having been set in during the month, and last's planting lifted and replaced to give more room for sprouting out. It was resolved, "That as Mr Richmond has not taken advantage of the liberal offer of the Board, he be requested to immediately shift his encroaching fence to the proper boundary." Persons desirous of purchasing water lay made can do so by arrangement with the secretary. Mr Gorret was appointed overseer for the coming month.

A discussion took place at the Recreation Grounds Board meeting on Friday night on the question of allowing sacred land concerts to be played in the grounds on Sunday afternoons. It was mentioned that the practice had been strongly condemned from the pulpit at one of the churches, and that the attendance at the Sunday schools had been affected through the concerts being held. The Board did not pass a resolution, but the general opinion seemed to be against allowing such concerts to take place too frequently.

TH, JULY 26, 1898
PLANT DONATION

The secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board asks us to acknowledge receipt of 1,500 native trees and shrubs. The donor, who does not wish his name to be mentioned, has evidently been at immense trouble to obtain the young trees, many of which are of varieties not yet established in the grounds.

TH, AUGUST 6, 1898
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday night. Present: Messrs Newman (chairman), Gorret, Hughes, Skinner, Corkill, and Ford. A letter was read from Mr F. W. Richmond, and the Board resolved, "That Mr Richmond be allowed to occupy the land he is at present encroaching upon on the terms mentioned in the original resolution of 3rd June, 1898." The overseer reported a suitable donation from an anonymous giver of native trees and shrubs, numbering nearly 2000, which have been placed in the nurseries. Votes of thanks were passed to the anonymous giver and to Mr W. Richards, of Ureua. A discussion took place as to the finances of the Board, and seeing that Miss King's legacy of 250 had not been applied as intended towards payment of Mrs Peckoe's mortgage, it was debated whether the Board ought to retain the services of the second man. Finally, it was resolved to retain him till after the fiscal year. Mr Hughes was appointed overseer for the coming month.

TH, AUGUST 16, 1898
FUNDRAISING

THEATRE ROYAL
MONDAY, 29th AUGUST.
LECTURE
 BY
MR TAYNOR GRIFFITHS,
 ENTITLED
WHENUA RUI
 (TREMBLING LAND)
 Illustrated with Lime Light Views by
 Mr Broad.
 IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE
 RECREATION GROUND BOARD.
 Admission, 2s and 1s.

TH, AUGUST 18, 1898
FOUR SWANS BORN

An "interesting event" has happened among the foxtail tribe in the Recreation Grounds—viz., the birth of four swans. The new arrivals are doing well.

TH, AUGUST 29, 1898
PROTECTING SWANS

Dogs found straying in the Recreation Grounds will not be kindly treated in the future. It has been found necessary to prevent the swans from being molested, and the by-law relative to stray canines will be rigorously enforced.

TH, AUGUST 1, 1898
CLAFFEY BENEFIT CONCERT

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOLROOM.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3rd.
 Benefit Concert tendered to
M R D. CLAFFEY,
 Who has been ill for some years.
 First part by the Christy Minstrels.
 Second part by leading lady and
 Gentlemen Vocalists.
 Full programme in future issues.
ADMISSIONS—One shilling; Gallery, 6d
 Doors open at 7.30, commences at 8 o'clock.

TH, SEPTEMBER 10, 1898
2000 PLANTS IN NURSERIES

According to the report of the custodian of the Recreation Grounds Board, submitted at the meeting on Friday night, there are now two thousand native plants representing very many varieties included in the several nurseries in the grounds.

TH, SEPTEMBER 10, 1898
FUNDRAISING

The Recreation Grounds Board has passed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr S. Griffiths for his interesting lecture, which augmented the Board's funds by £25 4s; and to Messrs Broad and Hall for their valuable assistance, to Mr Gordon, of Napier, for the use of the limelight apparatus, and to the proprietor of the TARANAKI HERALD for his generous donation of advertising and printing; also to Messrs Jones and Fischer for assistance and material used at the hall.

TH, SEPTEMBER 10, 1898
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs W. L. Newman (chairman), Cook, Corkill, Gorret, Hughes, and Ford. Mr Skinner was absent through illness. A letter was read from Mr Pinks, of Waitara, offering the Board a number of water hyacinths to be planted in the grounds. A deputation from the New Plymouth Cricket Club waited on the Board and asked on what terms they could have the ground during the coming season.—The Board decided to allow the Club to lay down a pitch and a practice pitch, and to have free use of the ground when not otherwise required by the Board, which, however, expects the Club to keep the ground in order; no charge to be made at the gate without the express consent of the Board. A vote of thanks was passed to the management of the Club's football match, for their donation of the proceeds to the Board. Mr Newman was appointed overseer for the month.

TH, OCTOBER 8, 1898
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Newman (Chairman), Corkill, Ford, Gorret, and Hughes.

A letter was read from the secretary of the City Band kindly offering their services on the occasion of the forthcoming Floral Carnival.

The Secretary reported that the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers, with the cordial concurrence of the Colonel commanding the district, had expressed their willing-ness to parade in full uniform and fire a feu de joie and perform military evolutions in the Grounds on the occasion of the Carnival.

The custodian's monthly report was read and discussed.

The Chairman and Secretary were empowered to make such monetary advances to the Ladies' Committee as the latter may require.

The custodian will be instructed to enforce the provisions of by-law No. 7 re taking dogs into the grounds (unless led), this being necessary owing to the increased number of young aquatic birds.

The Chairman was authorized to arrange special trains and special fares for the New Year.

Mr Newman was appointed overseer for the coming month.

The Board then adjourned.

FLORAL CARNIVAL.

WEDNESDAY,

9th November Next

IN THE
RECREATION GROUNDS.
In aid of the Board's Funds.

COMMITTEE:—

Messrs: Allen, Avery, Bayly, Bennett, Bault, B. Cook, G. Cook, H. Ford, Freeth, Fooks, Gornall, Hutchinson, Daywood, H. Hooker, S. Hill, H. Jury, Kerr, Mills, Newman, Roy, Roche, Searford, Snowball, E. M. Smith, and Tait; Misses: Brewster, Berry, Davenport Evans, Hirst, Hampton (2), Lawson, Nash, Stanford (2), Taiter, and Taylor.

PRESIDENT:—Mrs Doxhill.

Assisted by the members of the Board.

PROGRAMME.

CONSTRUCTIVE EVENTS.

- Class 1.—Decorated Dray, Wagon or Express, drawn by two or more animals
- Class 2.—Decorated four-wheeled Carriage, drawn by one horse or pony
- Class 3.—Decorated four-wheeled Carriage, drawn by two or more animals
- Class 4.—Decorated two-wheeled Gig, drawn by horse or pony
- Class 5.—Decorated Pony and Rider
- Class 6.—Decorated Perambulator
- Class 7.—Decorated Mail Cart, drawn by one child
- Class 8.—Decorated Mail Cart, drawn by two or more children
- Class 9.—Decorated Bicycle, ridden by lady
- Class 10.—Decorated Bicycle, ridden by gentleman
- Class 11.—Decorated Bicycle or Tricycle, ridden by child under 12
- Class 12.—Miscellaneous—such as Wheelbarrow, Bath Chair, etc.
- Class 13.—Decorated Floral Costume, boy or girl
- Class 14.—Decorated Floral Group, not less than three
- Class 15.—Decorated Parrot
- Class 16.—School Competition design or trophy decorated in distinctive colours
- Class 17.—Animated Portraits, in decorated bare color frames

JUDGES:

Messrs: Skinner, H. Fooks, Hutchinson, Mace, Hutchinson, Haincombe, and Pridden; Messrs: G. Gornall, Newman, Searford, MacDiarmid, Arden, G. Veale, Rev. H. Mann.

DISPLAY OF FANCY COSTUMES.

To Olds English May-pole Dances,

36 PERFORMERS 36

SWEDISH DRILL,

by School Children.

FANCY DANCE, } Conducted by
FLORAL MARCH, } Mrs Bault.

Roads, Quo's, and Billy, Shooting Gallery, Furch and Judy Fire, Shipping Competition, Race for Boys and Girls, Foot Race for Members of the Board.

TRICK RIDING (Bicycles).

LADIES BICYCLE RACE

Bicycle Polo Match, Serpentine Race, Umbrella Race.

EVOLUTIONS BY THE TARAWAKI RIFLES.

PHYSICAL DRILL BY ATHLETIC CLUB.

MAORI HAKA AND POI DANCE.

FANCY-DRESS FOOTBALL MATCH.

CHARACTER READING.

REFRESHMENTS.

Luncheon Book to be opened at 11.30 a.m.

CONFECTIONERY STALL, AFTERNOON TEA TENT.

Town & City Bands in attendance.

The usual afternoon TRAIN leaving New Plymouth at 4 o'clock will be DELAYED until 5.30, to suit country visitors. Tickets will be issued at Excursion Rates.

ADMISSION: Adults, 1s; Children under 12 years, 6d. Reduction to families.

BARRIS FORD, Hon. Sec.

TH, NOVEMBER 5, 1898 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board last night, the full programme for the Floral Carnival was drawn up, and judging from the number of novelties and attractions an excellent day's outing is being provided. The various committees have the arrangements well in hand; indeed so thoroughly have the ladies carried out their part of the programme that the Board felt called upon to express its unbounded satisfaction at the energy displayed. It will be seen by the report published elsewhere that amateur photographers will not be encouraged on the lawn on the day of the fête.

TH, NOVEMBER 10, 1898 ACCOUNT OF FLORAL FETE

AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.—Contrasted with the miserable weather experienced during the last week or two the elements on Wednesday afforded a delightful surprise. It was one of those days when Nature, garbed in her brightest and choicest, is seen at her best—a perfect day in every respect. The sun shone with a brilliancy unobscured by the slightest veil of cloud, and there was just sufficient wind to make the atmosphere deliciously cool and refreshing. For such an unclouded favour—unexpected as it was welcome—the management of the Floral Carnival promoted for the benefit of the Recreation Grounds has every reason to feel thankful. It was the essential element required to make the fête the desired success, and the highly satisfactory results achieved are gratifying in the extreme. The attendance was large; something approaching a record, in fact, and the Committee will have the inestimable pleasure of receiving the Board's funds with a substantial sum. Apart altogether from the enjoyment derived from the day's proceedings, everyone present must have felt pleased to contribute towards so worthy a cause, and have thrilled with pardonable pride at the beauty of the grounds, which was

brought vividly into prominence by the glorious weather and the attracted surroundings. The scene was strikingly attractive. The pretty costumes of the ladies, the beautifully mounted flowers, and the happy joyous crowd as it lined the terraces completed the effect, and instability impressed upon the beholder that in the Recreation Grounds New Plymouth possesses an asset as valuable as it is rare. Of the Carnival itself much that is complimentary can be said. It was carried out with such thoroughness as to reflect the highest possible credit on all concerned, and the Board is to be congratulated in having a Committee composed of such energetic and business-like ladies. The fair sex are, of course, generally excused with being able to attract very steep vehicles, but in the present case we think they excelled themselves. Aided by the aggressive wisdom of the Board, they arranged and worked the affairs with astonishing skill and judgment, and to them is undoubtedly due a very large share of credit arising from the success of the undertaking. In this connection Miss Abier, who carried out the duties of secretary, is to be specially mentioned. That lady had all her work arranged in a very satisfactory and complete style, and nothing was left undone that should have been attended to. The hearty thanks of those interested must, therefore, necessarily be accorded her. In the matter of floral display, some very pleasing results were attained, and, if anything, were an improvement on last year. Then, as in the present case, had weather had to be contended against. Many of the chalcid blossoms which grow so prolifically in this town, were spoiled by the erratic behaviour of the elements and consequently the exhibition was not as large as it might have been. Still in point of prettiness the exhibits suffered little. What lacked in material was made up in the artistic arrangement of the flowers, and the general effect produced were calculated to inspire the most admiring nature with a pleasurable feeling. All the vehicles were gaily decked with bright garlands of flowers of all colors, and were occupied by suitably costumed young ladies. The decorated dray, wagon or express did not attract any competition, which was also small in the four-wheeled class. But the fourth class—two-wheeled gig—brought forward some first-class entries, and the task of the judges was not so easy one. Their award fell to Misses Veale and Skinner, whose vehicle (Dr. McClelland's) was very nicely embellished, and attracted the warm admiration of the spectators. Perambulators, gossamer—some drawn by goats, others by dogs, etc.—bicycles, wheelbarrows, floral costumes, and floral groups were as varied in style as they were numerous, and the procession as it moved round the ground was a picturesque one. One of the attractive features was the number of little children—some of them mere babies, who, delightfully in dresses to match the particular ornament they had in charge, appeared to be the personification of happiness. It was expected that one or two decorated bullocks would compete, and several animals were, we understand, put through a course of training for the occasion. Owing, however, to a probable display of unruly behaviour it was deemed advisable to omit them, and this novel, if perhaps dangerous, exhibit was passed out. Introduced in the miscellaneous class was an entry representative of the Fire Brigade's appliances. It was admirably got up, and was

1899

The major development of 1899 was the completion and planting of what was known as Manhattan Island at the southern end of the main lake. The area where the island was formed was a raupo swamp. Originally there were two streams feeding into the lake, one at the east which ran through where the Serpentine is now and one at the west which came through Goodwin Dell the same as it does now. The stream back then was wider and less formal. Where the stream now runs under the path there was a bridge and to the south of the bridge a waterfall. In the 1800's it is likely more runoff water would have been flowing through the park. T. K. Skinner came up with the plan for the reclamation and oversaw the project. Charles Edgecome did the planting of the island.

There were several fundraising events during the year, but the Aquatic Floral Carnival was probably the standout one. It was held on November 9, the Prince of Wales (Edward VII) birthday. A small flotilla of decorated boats was tugged up and down the lake by a pilot boat manned by Board members, Messrs. Newman and Cock. We are fortunate to have a set of photos taken by Collis and published in the *Auckland Weekly News*. The photos of the prize winners are taken near the western bank of the main lake south of The Poet's Bridge. It is interesting to note that there were more than twenty ladies on the committee organising the event.

The Taranaki Volunteers, under the command of Captain Okey held a camp in the grounds. This became a regular fixture.

The Board received a petition requesting that the lake be available for swimming after 5pm. The Board's response was positive if the petitioners formed a swimming club. They would allow swimming between 5pm & 7pm for club members only. The New Plymouth Recreation Ground Swimming Club was formed.

Even though the Board's nurseries had enough plants for the season the custodian was asked to go to Ngati Maru country (Tarata) for a couple of days collecting native trees and shrubs.

Summary of significant events

- Manhattan Island constructed and planted out.
- Taranaki Volunteers camp.
- Floral Fete.
- Inaugural City Band swimming tournament.
- A new swimming club formed to get lake access in the evenings.
- Enough native plants in nursery for the 1899 planting season.
- The Borough Council make noises about having representation on the board.
- Section 1182 on the corner of Gover and Rogan Streets was exchanged with a piece of land owned by the Jockey Club.
- Board member W. L. Newman donated six iron garden chairs.



Manhattan Island circa 1900 (NPDC Parks Dept)

TH, JANUARY 7, 1899
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: The Chairman (Mr W. L. Newman), Messrs F. F. Corbett, H. Ford, and C. W. Garrett.

A letter was read from the secretary of the City Board, asking for permission to hold a Swimming Carnival in the Grounds.—The Board decided to grant the application on the usual terms—viz., the Board to receive 25 per cent of the gate takings.

Captain Okey, of the Tarzan's Volunteers, wrote requesting permission to hold a camp in the Grounds from the 13th to 24th inst., and to use the lake for drill purposes.—Granted, on the understanding that Captain Okey, as commanding officer, takes all reasonable precautions to prevent damage to the grounds by visitors.

Mr M. Booth will be allowed use of the boat in the Grounds one afternoon per week; payment for same to be paid each afternoon.

Leave of absence from the meeting was granted Mr Cook.

Mr Ford was appointed overseer for the coming month.

A letter from Mr L. M. Tanton regarding the cycling track question was not read and read.

This was all the business transacted.

TH, JANUARY 7, 1899
PETITION FOR LONGER SWIMMING

A petition signed by 22 people was read at the Recreation Grounds Board meeting on Friday night, pointing out the inconveniences of restricting the use of the lake in the Recreation Grounds for bathing purposes to mornings only, and asking that bathing be sanctioned after the hours of 5 p.m., together with the use of bathing shed and phosphen. The secretary has replied to the effect that the Board cannot entertain the application, but if an application is made by a Swimming Club the Board will favourably consider the same.

TH, JANUARY 11, 1899
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Lovers of the water-bat in New Plymouth will be glad to learn that the City Board has decided to hold a Swimming Carnival in the lake in the Recreation Grounds next month. A strong committee has been appointed, and it is intended to spare no efforts to make the carnival a thorough success. Amateurs and open races will form part of the programme, and it is also proposed to provide exciting aquatic events. With the facilities enjoyed by New Plymouth in respect to swimming sports, a feature such as is contemplated should be one of the most successful in the colony. The City Board in inaugurating the coming meeting are not particularly anxious to make the first gathering as much a matter of financial gain as one of pecuniary, and it—and there certainly appears to be no reason to the contrary—is successful, they intend to launch out each succeeding year until they have firmly established the Carnival, and are able to offer substantial inducements to outside competitors to attend. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the first gathering will be well supported. The programme of the sports will appear shortly.

TH, JANUARY 18, 1899

GRAND
Swimming Carnival,

TO BE HELD IN THE
RECREATION GROUND LAKE,
NEW PLYMOUTH,

ON
THURSDAY, 25th, 1899,

First Race to start at 2 p.m. sharp.

OFFICERS.—Conductors of Sports: Captain Okey and Mr L. M. Tanton. Judges: (Swimming) Messrs A. B. A. Clarke, A. Rayson, and P. H. Cartwright; (Diving) Mr R. G. Hughes. Handicapper: Mr H. Wilson. Starting Time-keeper: Mr J. Bennett. Timekeepers: Messrs J. H. Parker and A. L. Cooke. Committee: Messrs R. A. Gillespie, W. Treasky, H. Alingworth, D. McK. Bain, H. Wilson, J. G. Moroy, F. Newell, W. Nichols, A. Hookin, and A. Chapman. Secretary: Mr F. W. McCormick. Assistant Secretary: Mr R. A. Gillespie.

PROGRAMME:

1. Middle Race, of 1/2 mile. 1st prize 10s, 2nd 5s. Non. 1s.
2. Boys' Diving (open), 25 yds; no boys under 15 years. 1st prize 7s 6d, 2nd 2s 6d. Entrance free.
3. 100 Yds New Plymouth Handicap. 1st event.
4. School Boys' Race (handicap), open to boys attending public schools.—1st prize trophy, 2nd trophy.—Entrance free.
5. 100 Yards New Plymouth Handicap.—2nd event.
6. Girls' Race.—1st prize 5s. Entrance 6d.
7. Batrel Race, 50 yds.—1st prize 5s. Entrance 6d.
8. High Dive, limit 25 feet.—1st prize Gold Medal, 2nd Silver Medal. Entrance 1s 6d.
9. 200 Yards New Plymouth Handicap.—3rd event.
10. Plunge.—1st prize 10s, 2nd 5s. Entrance 1s.
11. Ball Race.—1st prize Silver Medal. Entrance 1s each member.
12. Long Dive (handicap).—1st prize 10s, 2nd 5s. Entrance 1s.
13. Ladies' Race, 50 yards.—1st prize Gold Medal, 2nd prize Silver Medal. Ladies to be conducted by gentlemen. Entrance 2s 6d.
14. Fancy Costume Race.—1st prize Trophy. Entrance free.
15. Rescue Race, 50 yds. Competitors to be fully dressed.—1st prize 10s. Entrance 1s.
16. Forced Handicap.—1st prize 10s, 2nd 5s 6d. Entrance: winners 1s 6d, losers 6d.

Nominations for events Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, close with the Secretary on Friday, February 17th, at 4 p.m.

Handicaps will appear on Monday, February 20th.

Nominations to be accompanied by the necessary fees and performance fee last two years; if none, last three performances.

New Plymouth Handicap, Nos. 3, 9, 9, decided by points; points to count 5, 3, 2. 1st prize, 25; 2nd prize, 15; 3rd prize, 10s.

Competitors must be dressed in University colours.

Competitors can have choice of cash or trophies.

First Race to start at 2 p.m. sharp.

The Secretary will be in attendance at Mr L. M. Tanton's office from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, February 17th, to receive nominations.

F. W. MCCORMICK,
 Hon. Secretary.

TH, JANUARY 21, 1899
FORMATION OF NEW SWIMMING
CLUB

At a meeting of those interested in the formation of a Recreation Grounds Swimming Club, it was unanimously decided to form a Club, one of the objects being to enable members to swim in the lake after 5 p.m., if the necessary permission is obtained from the Board. The following committee was elected—Messrs F. Thomson, W. J. Treasky, A. Carrington, J. Taylor, C. Webster, D. Alingworth, H. Stecher, F. Whitcombe, and G. Taylor. Mr Treasky was appointed secretary, and Mr Taylor treasurer. The subscription was fixed at 2s 6d.

TH, JANUARY 23, 1899
STEALING LILIES

A lad named Arthur Pallack was called upon in the Police Court to-day (Monday) to answer a charge of stealing water lilies from the Recreation Grounds lily. Sergeant Staggpole said he understood the boy had entered a plea of guilty, and would therefore not appear. The Board did not desire to press for a fine, but wished it to be distinctly understood by the public that flowers, shrubs, &c., growing in the grounds were not to be disturbed in any way. Mr. Stanford, S.M., entered a conviction against the lad, and ordered him to come up for sentence when called upon.

TH, JANUARY 30, 1899
EVENING SWIMMING ALLOWED

At a meeting of the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds Board it was resolved, that the application of the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds Swimming Club for permission to swim in the lake from 5 to 7 p.m. be accorded to, the Board reserving the right to rescind the permission at any time, in the event of any insubordination of any member of the Club.

TH, MARCH 11, 1899
ANNUAL REPORT

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.
 The statement of accounts was laid before the Board at its annual meeting, held on Friday. The Chairman says:—“It is pleasing to note the improved position of the finance, the receipts for the year being £282 12s 3d, and expenditure £248 17s. This is mainly due to the immense success of the Floral Carnival, held on the 9th November last, and which the Board, with the valued assistance of our holy friends, pursued making an annual feature in aid of the grounds. Not only have we been enabled to keep the gardens and assistant in continuous employment, but all facilities for working expenses have been discharged, and the mortgage (on the sections within the jurisdiction of the ground) has been reduced by 150, leaving an amount of £75 owing thereon. Extensive nurseries of native shrubs and trees, of which the Board are making a specialty, are coming on well, numbers of which will be transplanted throughout the grounds during the coming season. Fifty-three annual subscriptions tickets were taken out, but we think the number should be greatly increased, making the advantage and pleasure the grounds are to the town and district. To maintain and further beautify the grounds is the earnest endeavour of the Board, which will only be limited by the funds at its disposal.”

TH, APRIL 8, 1899
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Mr Hughes (chairman), Messrs Cook, Corhill, Gervais, Newman, and Ford. The custodian's monthly report was read and discussed. The Secretary reported that Mr Newman had kindly donated six iron garden chairs, and Captain Cepel six to the grounds. Votes of thanks were passed to the gentleman mentioned. Mr W. Newman was appointed overseer for the coming month. Several other routine matters were dealt with, and the Board adjourned.

At the Recreation Grounds Board meeting on Friday night, correspondence was read regarding the proposed Carnival Week. Mr L. M. Tansley, Secretary to the Committee, wrote notifying the Board that in accordance with the desire of the public meeting the net proceeds of the Carnival as a whole will be equally divided between the Recreation Grounds and the Associated Sports' Grounds Committee, both grounds to be at the disposal of the Carnival Committee free of charge or per centage. The draft of programme is as follows:—Tuesday 25th, races and illuminated grounds and programme concert; Wednesday 27th, Fire Brigade's Demonstration and fireworks display at night; Thursday 28th, races and open air night; Friday 29th, sports at Farnley and open air night. If the Carnival is to be carried out the committee will, therefore, require the Recreation Grounds on the evening of 25th and the day and evening of the 27th December. To the foregoing, the secretary of the Board (Mr Harris Ford) replied to the effect that the Board approved of the arrangement suggested, and will hold the grounds at the disposal of the Carnival Committee on the days mentioned, subject to the days here.

TH, MAY 6, 1899
NURSERY WELL STOCKED

According to the report of the custodian of the Recreation Grounds, submitted at the meeting on Friday night, there will be enough plants in the grounds' nursery to do all the native shrub planting this year.

TH, MAY 6, 1899
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday. Present: The Chairman (Mr Hughes), Messrs Corhill, Newman, and Ford. The Tolgate Football Club applied for permission to use the lawn for practice during the present season. The request was accorded to on the same conditions as last year. The custodian's monthly report was read and dealt with. As the special work in the Grounds has not been completed, Mr Newman was requested to continue as overseer for the coming month.

TH, MAY 9, 1899
BOROUGH COUNCIL DESIRE SEAT
ON RECREATION GROUND BOARD

In drawing attention to the desirability of the Borough Council being represented upon the Recreation Grounds Board, Mr Hellingger on Monday night voiced the opinion of many others besides himself.

In drawing attention to the desirability of the Borough Council being represented upon the Recreation Grounds Board, Mr Hellingger on Monday night voiced the opinion of many others besides himself. It is not, we are sure, that any fault is found with the administration of the Board's affairs in the past; there may have been mistakes made sometimes, but it will be freely admitted by everyone that it would be impossible to find a body of men who have devoted themselves with more energy and disinterestedness to the public service than have the various members of the Recreation Grounds Board. They have given freely of their time and money to the beautifying of the grounds, and the results speak for themselves, for we have a public domain which is the wonder and admiration of visitors, wonder that so much has been accomplished with so little money, and admiration at the exceeding beauty of the grounds. Still it is only right that the Borough Council, which provides an annual subsidy, should have at least one representative on the Board, so that the ratepayers will have a voice in the management of the reserve. Another matter has to be considered, that we may not always be so fortunate as now in finding men willing to give their services so disinterestedly as the present Board, and consider any some day arise when a change will be desirable. It would be better to face the question now, when relations between the Board and the Council, and between the Board and the public, are amicable, rather than wait until circumstances arise that cause the public to demand representation.

TH, JUNE 3, 1899
DOG MOLESTING SWANS

Several of the swans in the Recreation Grounds narrowly escaped meeting a violent death the other day. They were feeding on the lawn, when a dog made a bloodthirsty attack on them. The eldest bird of the lot fought desperately, and was finally relieved by the Custodian, who gave the canine a merry five minutes. The incident was reported at the Board meeting on Friday night, and the Custodian was authorized to shoot any dogs caught molesting the birds in future.

TH, JUNE 3, 1899
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday evening. Present: Messrs Hughes (chairman), Cook, Gervais, Newman, Skjerve, and Ford.

The Custodian's report was read. He stated that he had completed the large island (known to some folk as Man-hattan Island); the borders have been planted with native specimens from the grounds' nursery a oak, and the central part—a diameter of forty feet—has been sown in grass, a well-grown maize standing in the centre. The men are now engaged laying out and planting a piece of ground near the work just completed. Under Mr Skinner's supervision a plot of grass, about sixty feet in diameter, has been pegged off for use as a picnic ground; surrounding this will be a narrow border of shrubs.

A resolution was passed confirming the agreement with the Taranaki Jockey Club for the carriage of the Board's section 1162 for a plot of the Club's land.

The bus, engineer to the Board was granted permission to ride his bicycle in the grounds while on duty and to perform work in progress.

Resolved:—That in consideration of the extra and varied work in which the employees of the Board have lately been engaged a bonus of £3 be voted to C. Kappenstein and £2 to R. Mars; and that from next pay day their wages be increased £2 and £2 per week respectively.

A vote of thanks was passed to "A Friend" for a gift of 1000 native trees and shrubs, also by Mr E. Moorhead, of Wellington, for a donation of £10.

The Chairman and Mr Newman were appointed to oversee for members' subscription.

Mr Skinner was appointed overseer for the coming month.

The Custodian was instructed to spend a few days in the Ngaitama County for the purpose of collecting native trees and shrubs.

Accounts were passed, and the Board adjourned.

TH, JUNE 16, 1899
SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS

Heavy visitors to the Recreation Grounds never fail to have been struck with the really excellent work which is being carried out at the upper end of the lake. For the information of those who have not wandered round that portion of the grounds lately, we may explain that where the weighty ramp used to afford the approach is now a large island, shaped something like a leg of mutton, with the thick rising right up to the little foot-bridge near the waterfall which supplies the lake. The water flows through channels about six feet wide along either side of the island, which I rated some feet above the water level. Upon this island are planted handsome native trees, shrubs, and ferns, which are already well established and making good growth, and which in the course of a couple of years will make a handsome show. To the left of the lake the custodian, and extending from up to the extreme southern boundary of the grounds, a small grass plot is being enclosed with a belt of shrubbery and ferns, with the idea of forming a natural picnic ground, and this, too, will in a few years be a charming object when the shrubbery gives the required shade. Some hundreds of native trees are being planted also on the bank between this spot and the little bridge by the foot-bridge. Naturally these special works have monopolized the labours of the caretakers for some months, yet spare time has been found to continue planting and other improvements in other parts of the grounds. The chief credit for the carrying out of these new features is due to Mr Kingwell Stewart, with whom it is purely a labour of love, and his efforts are admirably seconded by the caretaker, Mr Kappenstein, and his assistant, Mr Mars, both of whom have displayed diligence and skill worthy of the highest praise. But to carry out all these improvements and at the same time to keep the grounds in order means a large and growing expenditure, for the native portion of which the public are locked in. The wages bill amounts now to something like £20 a month, in most which the Board has only an annual grant.

of £20 from the Borough Council and a few guineas derived from rents; for the income to make such need they rely upon voluntary subscriptions. The members of the Board, though personally loath of their time and money to benefit the grounds of which they have charge, feel a certain relief in appealing too frequently to the public. Their appeals have always met with so generous a response that they seem to think that each successive appeal has the appearance of imposing upon good-nature. In this they are too modest; still they should not be placed in the position of having to so often ask for more funds. To help an desirable and deserving object it is proposed, we understand, to hold a public ball shortly, and the proposal, which did not in any way originate with members of the Board, has been submitted to the Board, which has signified its approval and appreciation. A meeting will be convened in a day or two of persons willing to assist, and we hope to see a hearty response.

TH, JUNE 26, 1899
HONORARY MEMBERS/ PLANT DONATION

The following is an additional list of honorary members of the Recreation Grounds:—Mrs T. King, Mrs Tabor, Messrs J. H. Parker, B. Arrowood, S. Hampton, T. Parfong, A. D. Gray, T. Hillis, A. Ashbury, H. G. Keith, B. Todd, W. J. Shaw, T. Vesley, A. E. Sykes, J. Wilson, T. Avery, and R. Cook. The secretary acknowledges gifts of a large quantity from Mrs. Mitchinson for the centre of the proposed picnic lawn, and some native shrubs from Mr F. Richmond.

TH, JULY 1, 1899
FUNDRAISING

RECREATION GROUNDS.

A PUBLIC BALL,

In aid of the above will be held in the Theatre Royal on
SATURDAY JULY 1.

GOOD MUSIC! GOOD SUFFERS! (AND ROOM!)

Liquid Refreshments will be provided on the premises at market prices.

Tickets may be obtained from any Member of the Committee, at
JAMES G. HUGHES,
15, TERRY, ST.

TH, JULY 8, 1899
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Hughes (Chairman), Govett, Newman, Carkill, and Ford. A communication having been received from the police regarding a missing parcel, it was resolved that every facility be given the police for grappling in the lake, and that they be permitted, should it be deemed necessary, to explode dynamite in the deeper parts. Mr Carkill's action in obtaining an order for fireworks from London sufficient for three pyrotechnic displays was approved. Mr Skinner was asked to continue as overseer for the ensuing month.

TH, JULY 21, 1899
BALL REVIEW

The success of the Recreation Grounds Ball, held in the Theatre Royal on Thursday night, was not unexpected. When the proposal was first mooted it was taken up in a manner that augured well for a satisfactory issue, and the results certainly justified anticipation. The night was clear and frosty—perfect weather for the complete enjoyment of dancing, and everything combined to promote the pleasure of those present. The floor was in excellent condition, the music, which was supplied by Mr McKinnon Hale's orchestra, was distinctly good, and the general arrangements, including a very attractive supper, had been very carefully attended to. For this desirable state of affairs, much credit is due to the ladies and to Mr J. C. George, the promoter, who were indefatigable in their efforts to make the gathering as pleasant as possible. Mr Frank Thomson acted as Master of Ceremonies. During an interval, Mr R. G. Hughes, chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, took the opportunity of thanking all concerned for the sympathetic response to the appeal made, and said the large attendance was a very practical way of showing sympathy with the efforts of the Board. He particularly mentioned Mr George as the initiator of the ball, and that gentleman, in acknowledging the tribute to the Committee and himself, expressed the hope that the gathering would be an annual one—a wish that was cordially echoed by all present.

TH, AUGUST 5, 1899
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The business transacted at the Recreation Grounds Board meeting on Friday night was of a routine nature. The application of the contractor for the erection of a new chimney at his millage was granted. Mr Cook was appointed overseer for the ensuing month.

TH, AUGUST 8, 1899
BALL TAKINGS

As a result of the Recreation Grounds Ball, a sum of £31 13s 6d, after paying all expenses, has been handed over to the secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board.

TH, SEPTEMBER 1, 1899
FERN COLLECTING EXPEDITION

The secretary of the Recreation Grounds has just returned from a visit to Tarnia, where he has been collecting ferns and shrubs for the further beautification of the grounds. He speaks in appreciative terms of the assistance rendered him by Messrs Clifford and Hine.

TH, SEPTEMBER 18, 1899
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The ordinary meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday evening, when there were present Messrs Hughes (Chairman), Cook, Govett, Skinner and Ford. It was resolved that the chairman and secretary be empowered to sign and affix the seal of the Board to the exchange of section 1342 to the New

Plymouth Jockey Club for part of their property. The New Plymouth Cricket Club was granted use of the lawn for the ensuing season on payment of 21s. Permission was granted the Fire Brigade to lay down a 3 inch water pipe for the Georgetown in Carnival week, the work to be under the supervision of Mr T. K. Skinner. The Chairman was requested to call a meeting of ladies for the purpose of carrying out the annual floral fete on November 21st. A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs Clifford and Hine for their assistance to the secretary on his recent visit to Tarnia collecting ferns, &c. Mr Carkill was appointed overseer for the ensuing month.

TH, SEPTEMBER 28, 1899
FLORAL FETE DISCUSSIONS

A well attended meeting of ladies was held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday afternoon for the purpose of considering and arranging for the Annual Festival to be held in the Recreation Grounds on 21st November. Messrs Ford and Carkill were present as behalf of the Board, and the latter officiated as chairman pro tem. It was decided to vary the programme, and instead of a floral fete, to hold a Public Garden Party with a good selection of games, boating, wa-its, and other attractions. The following resolutions were carried:—That all present be a Committee, with power to add to their number, to act in conjunction with the members of the Recreation Grounds Board in carrying out the proposed festival. That the Mayor be the President of the Ladies' Committee. That Mrs Newman be the Secretary of the Ladies' Committee. It was resolved to invite suggestions as to games and other items for the programme, and the Committee will be glad to receive such, either personally or by letter, at a meeting to be held on Wednesday next, at 4 o'clock in St Mary's schoolroom.

TH, OCTOBER 7, 1899
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At a meeting of the Recreation Ground Board on Friday night there were present Messrs Hughes (chairman), Govett, Newman, Ford, and Skinner. The Chairman reported that a committee of ladies has been appointed to assist at the Fete to be held on 21st November. It was resolved that leave of absence be granted to M. Govett during his intended nine months visit to Europe, and that the Board wish him and his family a pleasant trip and safe return. Mr Ford was appointed overseer for the ensuing month. Seven routine matters were dealt with, and the Board adjourned.

TH, OCTOBER 14, 1899
FUNDRAISING

RECREATION GROUNDS
ANNUAL FETE.

Thursday, November 9.

AN OUT-OF-DOOR FETE AND
AN AQUATIC CARIVAL will be
held in the grounds on the above date in
aid of the Board's Funds.

Grand Procession of Decorated Boats at
2 p.m.

- Boat Races for Boys and Girls
- Model Yacht Sailing
- Punch and Judy Show Aunt Sally
- Tag of War and other Games
- Chairman Reading
- Prize for Best Decorated Boat and Crew
- Prize for Best Model Yacht
- Greatest Match—Hawera v. New Ply-

Town and City Bands
will play during the afternoon.

REFRESHMENTS to be obtained from
11 a.m. to 5 p.m., including Jugs of
Tea and Boiling Water

Excursion Train delayed until 1.30 p.m.

Admission, One Shilling. Liberal com-
mission to families.

LADIES' COMMITTEE:

- President, Mrs Dockerill; Hon. Sec.,
- Mrs W. Newman; Messames Bush,
- Clarke, A. C. Fookes, H. Ford, H. C.
- Hughes, Harbottle, E. Hooker, R. Jury,
- G. Newman, Paul, W. Skinner, E. M.
- Smith, Watkins, and Westmacott, Misses
- Barnworth, Dewarish, Hampton, Hiss,
- Pratt, and Teator.

HARRIS FORD,

MLL Hon. Sec.

TH, NOVEMBER 10, 1899
FLORAL FETE A SUCCESS

President, Mrs Dockerill; Hon. Sec.,
Mrs W. Newman; Messames Bush,
Clarke, A. C. Fookes, H. Ford, H. C.
Hughes, Harbottle, Stamford, G. T.
Mills, Hawley, Allen, R. Hooker, R. Jury,
G. Newman, Paul, W. Skinner, E. M.
Smith, Watkins, and Westmacott, Misses
Barnworth, Dewarish, Hampton, Hiss,
Pratt, and Teator.

For several years past a floral fete has
been held in the Recreation Grounds and
with such gratifying results that it has
become a recognized fixture. This year
the proceedings were varied somewhat.
Instead of a floral display, pure and
simple, an aquatic carnival on a small but
complete scale and other minor attrac-
tions were added to the programme, and
the results were highly satisfactory. The
attendance during the day was very
large, the costumes of the ladies and the
gay decorations imparting a bright and
animated appearance to the grounds. At
2 o'clock a procession of decorated boats
was participated by Mr W. L. Newman,
the chairman of the Board, and Mr E.
Cook, and afforded those present an oppor-
tunity of seeing the exhibits, all of which
were prettily and tastefully arranged.
First on the list was a boat, decorated by
Mrs Hall and Miss A. Hampton. The
colours were yellow and white and
were very artistically blended. The

exhibit secured first prize. Miss Dew-
arish obtained the second award,
while two exhibits by Mrs. W. H. Bal-
cer and Miss Ford were highly com-
mended. A bottle of model yacht was
shown by Captain Hood, and obtained a
distinguishing mark of the Judges' ap-
proval, Master Hood being second on the
list. In addition to those mentioned,
there were several Model canoes, and
other small craft, the scenes when the
proceedings were in full swing being a
decidedly attractive one. Side attractions
in the shape of character readings (fun-
dament Westmacott and Clarke being the
delineators), a Punch and Judy show, an
acrobatic performance, and a cricket
match between the New Plymouth and
Hawera Star teams, were provided and
helped to complete the day's enjoyment.
The refreshment booths did a thriving
business, the sum of £57 being realised
from that source alone. Attractive
music was supplied by the City Band,
the members of which appeared for the
first time in their uniforms. The Com-
mittee and members of the Board are
doubtless of every praise for the manner
in which they carried out the arrange-
ments. The takings totalled something
over £90.

TH, NOVEMBER 22, 1899

NEW PLYMOUTH
Christmas
Carnival.

From Dec. 25 to
Dec. 30, 1899.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
OF THE
NEW PLYMOUTH FIRE BRIGADE'S
DEMONSTRATION
AND
COMPETITION.

To be held during the

NEW PLYMOUTH CHRISTMAS
CARIVAL.

IN the RECREATION GROUNDS,
New Plymouth (the present grounds
in New Zealand).

£125 IN TROPHIES
AND PRIZES. £125

On Wednesday, Decem-
ber 27th, 1899.

No. 1 Event—COUPLING PRACTICE
for Two Men. Prizes—1st, £4 and
Mr S. H. Wilton's medals; 2nd, £2;
3rd, 1s.

No. 2 Event—HOSE AND REEL for
Five Men. 1st prize, £15 and five
gold medals; 2nd prize, £7 10s and
two silver medals; 3rd prize, £2 10s

No. 3 Event—LADDER AND RAY
SERIES for Two Men. Prizes—
1st, £4 and Henry Burpee's medals;
2nd, £2; 3rd, 1s.

No. 4 Event—TUGS AND LADDER
COMPETITION for Five Men.
Prizes—1st, £15 and five gold medals;
2nd, £7 10s and two silver medals;
3rd, £2 10s.

No. 5 Event—HOSE AND HYDRANT
COMPETITION for Three Men.
Prizes—1st, £4; 2nd, £2; 3rd, 1s.

A Consultation Event will be held if
time permits.

The events and conditions will be
strictly adhered to, and carried out under
the United Fire Brigades' Association
Rules.

One or more boats from each Brigade
allowed to compete.

SWIMMING EVENTS.

About 100 yards. 1st prize, 20s, and
medal. Commencement, 10 a.m.

About 25 yards. For boys under 18. 1st
prize, 10s, and medal. Commencement, 10
a.m.

Commencement for Swimming Events
also with the Secretary at 10 a.m. on
day of sports.

Holding for Troops Men

Aunt Sally

Hunting on the Larks

Walking the Merry Hunt

Harrell Race, etc., etc.

POINTS PRIZE.

A Handicaps Gold and Silver Medal,
valued at £5 10s, presented by Mr Trench-
lery, of Auckland, will be awarded to the
brigade whose team wins the highest
points in events No. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Monster Snake Concert

In the evening, at the Drill Hall, at which
the prize money and medals will be
presented. Tickets, 3d.

For further information apply

H. H. FOOTE,

Hon. Sec. Fire Brigade; or

LEONARD M. TAYLOR,

General Criminal Secretary.

TH, DECEMBER 9, 1899
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds
Board was held on Friday night. Present:
Messrs Hughes (chairman), Corhill, Ford,
Fleming, and Newman. Mr H. H. Ford,
secretary of the Fire Brigade, was
asking for the use of the large boat on
the day of the Demonstration. The
request was granted, on condition that a
responsible man is placed in charge of
the boat. The Secretary was instructed
to communicate with the Swimming and
Cricket Clubs regarding payment of fees.
—Mr J. Skinner's motion for work done
was passed, and Mr Skinner was thanked
for his donation. — Mr Newman was
appointed overseer for the coming month.

TH, DECEMBER 27, 1899

PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY.

The pyrotechnic display held in the
Recreation Grounds on Tuesday evening
was a decided success. Prior to the
commencement of the proceedings a
procession of Fire Brigades, headed by
the City Band, passed through the streets
to the grounds, which were well lined
with people. The display was an attrac-
tion in itself. The 2 marks were well varied
and decidedly effective, the mixture
and arrangement being one of the
features of the evening. The City Band
played a number of selections thereby
adding to the general enjoyment. The
committee must be congratulated on the
way in which the arrangements were
carried out, everything passing off very
satisfactorily.

Aquatic Floral Fete November 9, 1899

Auckland Weekly News Nov 24, 1899

PRINCE OF WALES' BIRTHDAY AT NEW PLYMOUTH.

[REPRODUCED FROM THE AUCKLAND WEEKLY NEWS.]

The Prince of Wales' birthday of 1899 was an exception to the proverbial fine weather that especially attends our royal holidays. For weeks previously the ordinary every day weather had put forth none of the characteristics of a winter time's summer month, but on Thursday, the 9th, an unusual dark week up, with accompanying fog and rain, was succeeded by the best of weather expected from him on this joyful occasion, and he allowed old and young both to make a real summer day for the day's boys to take their places and to pass their holiday.

The almost invariably fine weather prevailing on the royal natal days we celebrate perfectly truth, in some degree, to state that the devotion of the British race to his august head. Were the weather permanently bad on these occasions, we might come to realize and possibly forget we have a Royal Family.

It has been the wont of New Plymouth citizens to celebrate the Prince of Wales' birthday with a "Royal Tea," and invite their country cousins to come and view the

specimens, but this year of Anno Domini 1899 a departure from the traditional pattern of Royal Teas was made, and took the shape of an "aquatic floral carnival" on a small scale—very small, a small baby and of course small in comparison with that.

What the local papers apply to this morning's entertainment, consisting of music, and variety shows, and fireworks, including a grand and bonfire, was not only a very good and well-attended affair, but it was also a very good and well-attended affair. The entertainment provided was working, pleasant, and profitable, just the sort of entertainment the inmates of a workhouse perhaps might be permitted to attend without fear of any mental disturbance or further consequences arising from excess of merriment.

The aquatic floral carnival was well-attended on the placid lake in the Recreation Grounds, and thither streamed New Plymouth and her country cousins, some 500 of them, glancing over their shoulders as they passed along at the New Plymouth Home-Steak cricket match then in progress, as something they had never before, and never



1st prize boat decorated by Miss Hall and Miss Hempton.



2nd prize boat decorated by Miss Devenish.



3rd prize boat.

worth their notice, taking a few minutes in some of the Pinell and Jack shows, a mock and wild movement-making routine, in keeping with the general outdoor tone of the aquatic floral carnival, then crowding up by the islands to hear the band play. It was the city band, New Plymouth having a name of fame, besides the Submarine Army society. The band was drilled in its own regular and played with vim and vigour. "When we first put this motion on," "We've got 'em on," "We've got 'em all on."

All the band waits now in a harbor. From what house the Wellington band is believed to march across that a somewhat quiet or more a somewhat subject to a band's equipment. After waiting the music, the crowd moved on around the shores of the lake, where they would take their fill of aquatic floral carnival.

A prize boat, manned by Messrs. Newcomb and Clark, begged the permission of aquatic floral decorations up and down the lake for the edification of the public, and to give the judges an opportunity of deciding upon the merits of the exhibits competing for the award.

The award of the judges was not the popular verdict. The judges gave the first prize to a boat profusely and gaudily decorated with white and yellow flowers, and freighted with a gay and happy party of young New Zealanders, dressed and decorated to match the floral display of the boat, while the public's verdict went in favor of a very fair representation of a Venetian gondola, steered by a gondolier, respectable in a red and black suit and gaiters. A real small gondolier, under the canopy, was the handsome lady of the gondola, and a young child, both contained after the fashion in vogue in the city of the gondolier.

Two ladies and a gentleman were the judges. The gentleman was returned at once.

In the shells of small yachts which the national family of Zealand had it all their own way. There was not the least in favoring from of the aquatic festival.

Taken on the whole the same effect of the procession on the lake was really great, but it did not seem to exhibit the spectacular character of the country residents. They made up for the numerous numbers, by taking themselves out at the refreshment booths. After having their chocolate and, and witnessing lots of acrobatic skill by local athletes, they eventually found themselves interested spectators of the cricket match. He ended the New Plymouth "aquatic floral carnival." By the time once round again to celebrate good old Adolf Victor's birthday, the committee will, it is hoped, have their baby carried in his bed.



Aquatic Floral Fete images (*Auckland Weekly News*, November 24, 1899)

1900

Once again the Recreation Ground Board approached the Borough Council looking for an increased subsidy. This time they recognised that the only way that this was going to happen was to offer the council some representation on the Board. The council agreed to this and to increase the subsidy once the legalities were sorted out and their members were active on the Board.

There was a push by local sporting groups to form another committee to further develop the sports ground and centralise sporting events, which would have made the Fitzroy ground defunct. The feeling at the time was that the Fitzroy ground was too far from town. T. K. Skinner came up with an ambitious plan to increase the size of the sports field considerably. The plan would have meant removing the hill where the western terraces now stand and part reclaiming what is now Fountain Lake. At that time there were no terraces on the western bank. The plan was a bit too ambitious and expensive and it met with significant opposition. The next major development would not get underway until late 1905.

The maze that Archibald Hood had so generously made was unsustainable from a maintenance point of view and had been pulled out. During 1900 the area was planted out with 200 native trees.

The Board was approached by Star Football Club to erect a memorial to three of their old members who had died in South Africa while serving their country. The Board agreed to this. However, the memorial did not eventuate until 1903 and was only for Clement Wiggins.

It is notable that some of the fundraising efforts at this time were for the troops in South Africa and that the Board pulled back on its own fundraising because of this. No doubt this had some impact on the decision not to go ahead with major projects.

A noted donation was two garden seats by Mrs Copland.

At the annual meeting of the North Egmont Forest Board, "Permission was granted the Recreation Grounds Board to take from the Forest reserve two loads of plants." It is possible/probable that this is where kamahi trees that are in the park originated.

Summary of significant events

- Old maze site planted out with 200 trees.
- Board agrees to allow Trooper's memorial (Wiggins memorial) to be erected in grounds.
- New track to Vogeltown.
- The Board press the Borough Council to increase subsidy and suggest Council could have representation on recreation Ground board.



New Path leading to Vogeltown. (Puke Ariki PHO2020-0014-025)



Bathing House and Diving Board circa 1900. (Puke Ariki PHO2020-0014-022)

**TH, JANUARY 13, 1900
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Hughes (chairman), Corhill, Skjener, and Harris Ford.

A letter was read from Captain Olney, asking permission to make a collection in aid of the Transvaal Relief Fund on Sunday afternoon, during the camp service.—The Board decided to accede to the application, under the special circumstances, the permission to take up a collection not to form a precedent.

A requisition from the collector for material was granted, and an account from Mr J. Hawkins of £17 10s for fencing material was paid.

Mr Corhill reported that he had received the licences and shipping rates of four cases of fireworks, which would be due here about the end of the month.—Resolved, "That of the fireworks now in transit per ss. Palooka one half be used for a pyrotechnic display and balloons amount, to take place in the grounds on the evening of Wednesday, 7th February, and that the whole proceeds, after deducting actual expenses, be devoted to the Patriotic Fund now being raised in connection with the war in South Africa."

The Chairman reported the case of a resident, who, with his wife and children, had deliberately climbed down the tiered terrace on the eastern side of the sports ground on Thursday.—After some discussion, it was resolved to accept the apology made by the offender, and not to prosecute on this occasion.

Mr Newman was re-appointed treasurer for the ensuing month.

This concluded the business.

**TH, FEBRUARY 2, 1900
HARRIET CANNON**

The Hon. Secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board begs to acknowledge receipt of a despatch of £1 from Mr and Mrs Henry Phil Perata, of Wellington, who paid a visit to the grounds on Thursday, and were very pleased with what they saw, particularly with the large and varied collection of Tropicanna plants and devices. Mr Perata, who has been living out of Taranaki for a great many years, was born at Motara in 1825, about the time when Messrs Barrett and Lowe took part in the defence of the Mokoia pa against the Waikatoes. His grandfather assisted in the rescue of Captain and Mrs Gault after the wreck of the "Harriet" in 1824, and Mr Perata was instrumental to find both the Motara and Harriet coves occupying prominent positions in our New Plymouth Park.

**TH, FEBRUARY 3, 1900
FUNDRAISING FOR BOER WAR**

**GRAND
PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY
IN THE RECREATION GROUNDS,**

WEDNESDAY EVENING, 7th
FEBRUARY.

THE RECREATION GROUNDS BOARD beg to announce that on WEDNESDAY evening next, being the 7th inst, a display of fireworks is to be given in aid of the Fund now being raised to send Taranaki Dough-rollers to South Africa. The fireworks have been imported direct from Jack and Co., of the Crystal Palace, with the intention of utilizing them to produce revenue for the grounds, but the Board has decided to devote one-half of the shipment to this most deserving object. The programme will include items never before seen in Taranaki, and the public may confidently look forward to a treat not only to big people and little ones. A number of massive balloons will be set up and the grounds will be illuminated with a profuse assortment of Chinese lanterns. The City Band has promised its valuable assistance.

Advertisement: Adults, 1s. Children, 6d.
Families on the usual Board scale.

HARRIS FORD,
Hon. Sec.

TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1900

The Fireworks Display.

The members of the Recreation Grounds Board are doing their best to make the fireworks display to-morrow evening a thorough success. They have enlisted the assistance of gentlemen who take an active interest in festival matters, and with their help very complete arrangements have been made for the efficient management of this gathering. The two principal positions for the discharge of the fireworks will be the Pool's Bridge and the Island, which is to be moored in the centre of the lake. In order to secure the operators from interference and at the same time to safeguard the public from accident, the ends of the bridge will be barricaded and traffic across it stopped for the evening. Markers for the discharge of shell will be placed on the slopes on either side of the lake, and spectators are requested not to gather in the immediate vicinity of these points. The City Band will provide the harmony which is always such an attraction at fetes in the grounds.

TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1900

**Display of Fireworks in the
Recreation Grounds.**

TO-NIGHT.

The following is the official programme of the pyrotechnic display to be given in the Recreation Grounds to-night:—Signal Aerial Maraca, announcing commencement of display, 8 o'clock sharp; Royal Salute of Maraca during the illumination of the grounds by changing coloured lights; battery of 10 Roman Candles; ascent of 2-6 foot Fox Balloons; ascent of 2 rockets with Brilliant Stars; Floating Roman; ascent of 2 rockets with Coloured Stars; device, The Jewel Jet; Mass of Serpents; Discharge of Shells; ascent of Grottoes Balloon; Feu de Joie; battery of 3 Roman Candles; Vertical Whoozy; Jewel Fountain; flight of 2 rockets with Brilliant and Coloured Stars; Jack in the Box; Discharge of Shells; battery of 3 Prisms of Water Flame Candles; device, The Royal Fan; Discharge of Shells; Magical Illumination with Coloured Fire; battery of 4 Tricoloured Roman Candles; ascent of

15 Foot Balloons with Magnificent Light; flight of rockets with Brilliant and Coloured Stars; Devil among the Tailors (2); battery of 2 Electric Hair Roman Candles; battery of 10 Streamers; ascent and descent of 5 Tearbillows; Floating Roman; discharge of Coloured Shells; device, Rainbow Wheel; Jack in the Box; battery of 6 Large Coloured Candles; flight of 10 Height Rockets; ascent of 2-10 feet Balloons with Magnificent Light; Vertical Wheel; discharge of Coloured Shells; device, Grove of Golden Palms (3 huge Garbs); ascent of Juggler Rockets; battery of 10 Streamers; Feu de Joie. God Save the Queen.

The net proceeds will go to the Moore Men Fund.

TH, FEBRUARY 8, 1900

Pyrotechnic Display.

Scenes attended the pyrotechnic display kindly given by the Recreation Grounds Board on Wednesday night in aid of the patriotic fund. The weather in the early part of the evening was fine, but just towards the close of the proceedings a rather smart shower somewhat dampened the enjoyment of those present. The grounds were brightly illuminated with Chinese lanterns, producing some remarkably pretty effects, which were heightened by the varied bonas and attractiveness of the explosions. The Committee had evidently exercised much care in the selection of the fireworks. The many devices were shown with great success, and the frequent outbursts of applause furnished sensitive proof that the on-lookers were intensely pleased with the display. The main scene of operations was at the Pool's Bridge, while a vigorous bombardment was also kept up from a boat moored in the centre of the lake, thus a constant shower of pyrotechnics was at work throughout the proceedings. The intervals were pleasantly filled in with music played by the City Band, under the direction of Bandmaster Hoyle, who is making excellent progress with the members. The following gentlemen participated in the fireworks:—Messrs F. P. Corhill, L. M. Tamplin, G. Cook, J. Harvey, T. L. Williams, F. Messenger, H. Smart, and C. T. Mills. The members of the Fire Brigade were in attendance, and any fire among the trees was promptly extinguished. After paying expenses a sum of £26 was netted.

**TH, FEBRUARY 9, 1900
CENTRAL SCHOOL SWIMMING CLUB**

The Recreation Grounds has presented a lively appearance between 12 and 1 o'clock every day, when some 60 or 70 of the Central School boys may be seen dipping in the water. Many of the boys are expert swimmers, while those who have not yet acquired the art get their first lessons in the shallow part of the lake, where there is no danger. The rules of the Club are very stringent, and are strictly enforced by the teacher in charge. The conception of this Swimming Club in connection with the school is a step in the right direction, as not only do the boys learn a most useful art, but as they say themselves the dip in the cold water freshens them up for their work in the afternoon.

**TH, FEBRUARY 17, 1900
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday evening, and was attended by Messrs Hughes (chairman), Cook, Newman, and Ford. The chairman, in his report, recommended that the band rotunda and bathing shed be painted, and also urged Dicky Barrett's claim to a new board and inscription. The work was authorized, and also a new bridge near the bathing shed. It was decided that £25 be paid Mrs Pooker on account of the unpaid purchase money on that part of the ground comprised in the lower lake. Mr Skinner was appointed overseer for the coming month.

**TH, MARCH 2, 1900
CITY BAND SWIMMING GALA**

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Programme—Conductor of Sports: L. M. Tasson. Judges: Diving, R. G. Hughes; Swimming, H. E. Macdonald, F. Messenger, and H. Macy; Rowing, A. Baynes. Starter: G. Harrison. Starting Timekeeper: J. Bennett. Timekeeper: F. Stein. Marshaller: H. Wilson. Secretary: F. W. McJannet. Assistant-Secretary: D. McIl, Esq.

Scarcely have the Recreation Grounds appeared so picturesque as on Thursday afternoon, when the City Band's Swimming Carnival took place. The day was a trifle hot for the spectators, but to the competitors the heat was rather an advantage. The City Band provided excellent music during the afternoon. Much of the success of the sports was due to the untiring efforts of the officials, who worked with an ardour worthy of imitation. The takings at the gates amounted to £19, but as a considerable number had tickets of admission there is still a fair amount to come to hand. Some of the competitors finished in excellent style, and the swimming generally was good. The Blindfold Race caused considerable amusement, for some of the competitors got easily astray, and the instructions from friends to keep to the right or the left rather complicated matters. The Diving Competition created considerable interest, some excellent dives being made. Following are the results:—

Maiden Race, 75 yards. First prize 15s, second prize 10s. L. De Jongh, 1; G. K. Brown, 2; A. Hargreaves, 3. Time, 1min. 18sec. Other entries: B. Frowin, K. George, A. Payne, T. C. Frowin, R. Woodhouse, G. Parker.

New Plymouth Handicap, 50 yards. First prize 20s, second 10s. L. De Jongh, 10sec, 1; A. R. Standish, 2sec, 2; Bildebeck, 3sec, 3. Other entries: G. T. Shaw, G. Parker, W. Bailey.

Corka Dive. First prize 10s. G. K. Brown, 1. Also competed: W. Whitaker, W. Wilson, R. Frowin, H. Earley, H. Allen, E. Wall, W. Jackson, L. Russell, R. Woodhouse.

Blindfold Race, about 50 yards. First prize 10s, second 5s. W. Wood, 1; B. Frowin, 2. Also entered: G. K. Brown, F. C. Frowin, G. Lye, L. Cook, H. Earley, W. Wood.

School Boys' Race (open to boys attending public schools), 50 yards. First prize silver medal. B. Tasson, 1; E. Drake, 2; B. Stain, 3. Also started: D. Woodhouse, W. Whitaker, W. Malher, L. Long, B. Garry, W. Russell.

New Plymouth Handicap, 75 yards. First prize £1, second 10s. L. De Jongh, 18sec, 1; Bildebeck, 2sec, 2; A. R. Standish, 3sec, 3. Time, 1min. 18sec. Also started: A. R. Egleston, G. T. Shaw, W. H. Phipps, R. Cole, G. Payne, F. Wilson, W. Bailey, and A. Payne.

Long Dive Handicap. First prize 15s, second 5s.—G. K. Brown, 15ft start, 44 yards, 1; A. R. Egleston, scratch, 44 yards, 2.

New Plymouth Handicap, 150 yards. First prize £1 10s, second 10s.—L. De Jongh, 18sec, 1; Bildebeck, 2sec, 2; A. R. Standish, 3sec, 3. Also started: A. R. Egleston, G. T. Shaw, W. H. Phipps, F. Wilson, W. Bailey, G. Parker.

High Dive (limit 25 feet). First prize gold medal, second, silver medal. F. Hooker, 1; H. Wilson, 2. Also competed: W. Wilson, T. Ainsley, W. Gumbrecht, W. Findon, K. Wilson.

Plunge. First prize 15s, second 5s.—H. Earley, 11yd, 1; G. T. Shaw, 10yd, 2; L. Woodhouse, 11yd, 3. Also competed: G. K. Brown, W. Wilson, W. Jenkinson, A. R. Standish and R. Avery.

Maori Canoe Hurdle Race. First prize 40s, second 10s.—Charlie, 1; Moore, 2; Robin, 3. Also started: Daniel, Harry.

**TH, APRIL 17, 1900
FUNDRAISING**

**The Recreation Grounds
Ball.**

THE proposal of the Committee entrusted with the arrangements for the annual Recreation Grounds ball on Monday night was sufficient guarantee that the gathering would be brought to a successful issue, and, therefore, the gratifying results attained did not come as a surprise. The floor was not uncomfortably crowded, and the pleasure was heightened by splendid music, which was supplied by Mr Garry's orchestra. The ladies had decorated the supper tables very prettily, while the other factors for an enjoyable evening were also carefully attended to. Mr J. C. George, the secretary, is entitled to praise for his careful organization of the ball. With him, as a committee were Messrs Decker, W. Bayly, Bennett, Cook, Ellis, Horsthouse, A. C. Pooker, Messenger, Newman, Paul, E. M. Smith, Skinner, and F. L. Webster, and Messrs Devanish, Harst, Hampton, K. Hamerton, and Stephenson-Smith. The duties of Master of Ceremonies were carried out by Mr A. F. Thomson.

**TH, MAY 5, 1900
MANHATTAN ISLAND UPDATE**

The Recreation Grounds Board is getting together an excellent assortment of chairs already. A very noticeable addition are the Ngalimara palms, which are growing so luxuriantly about 100ft at the far end of the grounds. A recent outside visitor to the place has expressed himself to the Board in very glowing terms of the grounds, and has made a suggestion that the different shrubs should be labelled, in order to let the public know what they are looking at.

**TH, MAY 15, 1900
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**APPLICATION FOR INCREASE OF
BOROUGH SUBSIDY**

THE question of increasing the borough subsidy to the Recreation Grounds was under consideration at the Council meeting on Monday night. A deputation from the Board, consisting of Messrs F. P. Cockill (chairman), H. Cook, H. C. Hughes, and H. Ford, was present, and pointed out their views on the question. —Mr Cockill said they noticed in the newspaper that the amount proposed to be allocated was £20, as in the past. For some time past the Board had felt its congested financial condition, and when the Council considered the distinct progress made in the grounds during the past few years it was felt that the Council might possibly see the way to enlarge the amount voted, and so place the Board in a position to continue its beneficial work. At the present time the income received was £20 from the borough, a small amount—say £10—for rent of small strips of land, subscriptions and entertainments, but it was not sufficient to do everything that was necessary to maintain the grounds as they should be maintained. Even now the overcosts, which was previously guaranteed by members of the Board, had almost reached its limit, and if the Council could see its way to increase the allocation to £200 it would save the revolving gratitude of the Board. He added that the members recognized the principle that where public money was expended public representation should be given, and to meet that it had been suggested among themselves that a member of the Council should be appointed to act as an auxiliary or advisory member, to which, of course, objection might be raised that such member would not have a legal standing. On the other hand one of the members of the Board could resign—he himself had offered to retire—and the Council could nominate a Councilor to fill his place. Should the latter suggestion, which was certainly the more feasible, be adopted, he would suggest that the Councilor so appointed should only hold office so long as he was a member of the Council.

Messrs Cook and Hughes endorsed Mr Cockill's remarks, and pointed out the great attraction the grounds were to the town.

The Worshipful and the Council voted to talk it over with the proposal of the Board, and with their work, but it was only felt that the public should have some representation on the Board. The matter, however, would be discussed when the Estimates were under consideration.

Subsequently, a discussion took place on the question, as an outcome of which the Council decided that it will be prepared to largely increase the grant as soon as the Board has obtained legal representation for the Council on the Board. The general opinion of Councilors was strong in the suggestion that Mr Cockill should resign.

TH, MAY 5, 1900
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday evening. Present: Mr Corkill (chairman), Cook, Hughes, Newman, and Ford (Secretary). Mr Skinner was granted leave of absence owing to illness.—The Clubodians were authorized to make arrangements for a trip to the coast to collect an assortment of mountain shrubs, provided permission is obtained from the Chairman of the Forest Reserve. A resolution was passed, requesting Mr Hughes to confer with Mr Stewart as to the Board's power to lease sections, and in the event of their opinion being favourable sections 1143 and 1145 will be advertised for lease on similar terms to the lease of the School Corporation.—An application from Mr Walker to play for hire on the lake was referred to Mr Newman to deal with.—The Secretary acknowledged £20 from Mr George, secretary of the late hall, and also £1 from Mrs K. King.—Mr Skinner was appointed secretary for the ensuing month.

TH, JULY 10, 1900
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

At the recent monthly meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board there was present:—Messrs Corkill (chairman), Skinner, Newman, Ford, and Hughes. It was resolved, that this Board has heard with deep regret of the death of Mr W. Parker, who, while resident in New Plymouth, did valuable service in connection with the Sports Ground scheme; and respectfully tenders to his widow its sincere sympathy in her great affliction.—Mr Kobay's tender for 12 years' lease of sites 1140 and 1160 was accepted.—Mr Courtney's application for the Board to drain two sections in Liverpool street opposite Mr Coker's, was referred to the Chairman to deal with.—The Chairman's monthly report was read and discussed.—Mr Corkill was appointed treasurer for the month.

TH, AUGUST 11, 1900
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs F. P. Corkill (chairman), Newman, Skinner, Ford, Cook, and Hughes. The custodian reported that a good deal of planting had been carried out during the month, 200 native trees being put down around the site of the old main, and another 100, supplied by the Society for the Preservation of Native Plants, had been planted on the seaward face of Merland Hill. A letter was read from the Taranaki Rugby Union asking on what terms the Board would grant the use of the grounds for the Taranaki-Otago match. It was decided to reply that the Board will allow the match to be played in the grounds on the usual terms, viz, 25 per cent. of the gate money, and subject to the management of the Union making proper provision for the maintenance of order and protection of the grounds from damage. Mr Ford was appointed custodian for the month.

TH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1900
WIGGINS MEMORIAL INITIATION

At a meeting of the members of the Star and Takapa Football Clubs held on Thursday, it was decided to erect a monument to the memory of the late Trooper Enderby, Wiggins and Hampton, formerly members of the Club. A Committee was set up to further the object and obtain sanction to erect the monument in the Recreation Ground.

TH, SEPTEMBER 24, 1900
LIFEBOAT FOR HIRE

The lifeboat in the Hastings Grounds is now available for hire at 2s per hour, those using the same to find a competent boatman.

TH, SEPTEMBER 24, 1900
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Corkill (chairman), Newman, Cook, Ford, and Hughes. It was decided that the application of Mrs Gray for the use of the lake and shed for a Ladies' Swimming Club be granted, subject to the charge of 1s per member. The Hockey Club applied for permission to hold a Fancy Dress match in the grounds on the 4th October, the proposal to go through the proposed memorial fund. Granted.—Resolved, "That the Board will be pleased to facilitate the erection of the proposed Trooper's memorial in any suitable position in the grounds."

TH, SEPTEMBER 24, 1900
NEW SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE
DISCUSSED

The Recreation Sports
Ground.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS.

At the last meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board a number of recommendations approved of at a meeting of representatives appointed by the Board and the Fitzroy Sports Ground, with Messrs A. H. Nelson and C. T. Mills also present, were forwarded for consideration, in order, as the latter pointed out, to bring about the proposed liquidation of the Fitzroy Sports Ground, so that for the future sporting interests may be confined entirely to the Recreation Grounds, New Plymouth. The recommendations are as follows:—(1) That the grounds for all sporting purposes be vested in a General Committee of 25 trustees, inclusive of the Mayor for the time being as President, the grounds to be held by such committee until all liabilities for and in connection with cost of improvements made to the grounds are liquidated. As a first formation of such General Committee, the members to be nominated by the following bodies (two members each, the Mayor to preside):—Borough Council, Recreation Board, Fitzroy Sports Ground, Star Club, Takapa Club, Fire Brigade, Hockey Club, Cycling Club, New Plymouth and United Cricket Clubs, Tennis Club, and Swimming Club;

such Committee to frame its own by-laws for working, subject to conditions as follows:—That an Executive Committee, inclusive of His Worship the Mayor (who shall preside and have a casting vote as well as deliberative vote), be elected annually, such General Committee to fill vacancies as they occur. (2) The whole of the revenue from sports, including aquatic, and other undertakings under the management of such Committee, together with rent and proceeds for use of the sporting part of the grounds, to be the funds of such Committee for the purpose of paying off interest, cost of improvements, and providing for charges in connection with sports, etc. (3) That permission be given the Committee to do certain improvements in and to the ground as will be suggested at next meeting by your representatives who have acted as this Committee; also permission be given to pledge revenue as security for money that may be borrowed to carry out the proposed scheme generally. [The scheme, we understand, includes the enlargement of the ground, and making the necessary arrangements for sports generally,—the cost of the work being approximated at £1400.] (4) That providing that the above recommendations are approved, the present representatives presenting the petition be granted power to deal with securing the Fitzroy Grounds, and thus pave the way to the greater scheme and avoid all chance of failure in that direction.

The Board decided to meet the representatives of the various bodies and discuss the details of the scheme.

TH, SEPTEMBER 25, 1900
SCHEME TO IMPROVE SPORTS
GROUND

The scheme for improving the sports ground in the Recreation Grounds is one which should be supported by all classes. As the place stands at present it is entirely unfit for the purposes for which it is intended. In the winter it is too soft and heavy for football, besides being a little too short. In the summer the sand is never in really good condition, and there is barely room for cricket. For athletic sports purposes the lack of a spilling track renders it almost useless, for no sports gathering is now complete without spilling events. When the suggestion of forming a spilling track in the Recreation Grounds two or three years ago was made, there was some unfortunate misunderstanding which resulted in an opposition sports ground being established at Fitzroy. Had the public here never taken kindly to those grounds, they are called for Great town and do not possess the natural advantages to be found in the Recreation Grounds; hence, while they have not received the support the energy of the promoters wanted them to, the Recreation Grounds have also suffered by the opposition. The latter night, with a proper outlay of capital, by making perfect good for the holding of sports, cricket and football matches, and other games of the kind, and for each purpose the grounds might be one of the most popular resorts in the colony. The details of the improvement scheme will, we presume, shortly be made public, and no doubt there will be no ready a response as there always is to anything intended to beautify and increase the attractiveness of the Recreation Grounds, already among the best and prettiest in Australasia.

TH, OCTOBER 15, 1900
IMPROVEMENTS TO SPORTS
GROUND

The Chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board has requested the honorary engineer (Mr T. K. Skinner) to prepare a plan embodying extensive improvements which it is expected will render the Sports Grounds available for the requirements of most branches of athletic games and sports.

TH, NOVEMBER 17, 1900

The Recreation Grounds

PROMISED ENLARGEMENT OF
SPORTS GROUND.
THE SCHEME APPROVED.

ESTIMATED TO COST £2000.

At the Recreation Grounds Board meeting on Friday night the proposed extension of the Sports Ground was considered. There were present: Messrs Corhill (chairman), Newman, Skinner, Ford, and Hughes, and Messrs C. T. Mills, A. H. Holmes, and W. L. Skinner (representatives of the promoters of the scheme).

A rough plan of the proposed improvements and estimated cost, prepared by Mr T. K. Skinner, was laid on the table. After discussion, the Board resolved to approve the plan, subject to such modifications as circumstances may render necessary; the estimated cost being £2000. The scheme of representation and management (previously published in the HERALD) was slightly amended and also agreed to.

A further resolution was also passed, inviting the promoters to co-operate with the Board in arranging details and to take the necessary steps to convene a representatives meeting with the object of giving effect to the scheme for the improvement of the grounds.

The scheme, if carried out, will mean the removal of the hill at the Lizard-street entrance, and also filling in a portion of the lower lake. The plan when properly prepared will be submitted to public inspection.

TH, NOVEMBER 19, 1900
EXTENSION OF SPORTS GROUND
APPROVED

At a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board on Friday, in conjunction with representatives of the extension scheme, Mr. T. K. Skinner submitted a rough plan of the proposed alterations, estimated to cost £2000. After some discussion, the plan, which involves the removal of the mound at the Lizard-street entrance and filling in part of the adjoining lake, was approved, subject to such modifications as may be found necessary. The promoters of the scheme are to be asked to co-operate in giving effect to the scheme when details are arranged.

TH, DECEMBER 5, 1900
BODY FOUND IN RECREATION
GROUND

It was reported to the police, early this (Wednesday) morning, that the dead body of a man had been found in the lower lakelet in the Recreation Grounds, by Mr William Collins, a visitor from Wellington, who was on his way to bathe in the upper lakelet. Constables Russell and Lind went to the Grounds and removed the body to the Morgue. The body which from all appearances had not been long in the water, was identified as that of John Charley, an inmate of the Old People's Home, and an old age pensioner. The old man was last seen by the custodian, Mr T. P. Lister, about 5 o'clock on Tuesday night when he made a tour of the Home. From information given by some inmates of the Home it would appear that Charley got out of bed about 5 o'clock this morning, gave some articles in his possession to some of his brother inmates, and then proceeded to the Grounds and drowned himself in the lower lakelet, in about three or four feet of water. Mr Fyeroft saw the old man about 5.15 o'clock, when Charley was evidently on his way to the Grounds. The body was fully clothed when taken out of the water.

An inquest was held at the Hospital at 2.15 o'clock to-day (Wednesday), before Mr R. L. Stanford and a jury.

The deceased, who was known at Patua, Hawera, the East Road, and other places in the district, came to New Plymouth and entered the Home in 1881. He was then 74 years of age, and consequently at the time of death he had topped the four score, being 81 years. He was in receipt of the old age pension. The deceased, who was a single man, was a bootmaker by trade. It is stated that he had been an old resident in the Taranaki district.

TH, DECEMBER 14, 1900
BOY CAUGHT LIGHTING FIRE

Within the past few days three attempts have been made to fire the furoe bodge around the Recreation Grounds. This morning a lad was caught in flagrante delicto, and the matter has been placed in the hands of the police.

Taranaki Herald, 14 Dec 1900
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Thursday night. Present Messrs Corhill (chairman), Cook, Govett, Ford, Skinner, Newman, and Hughes. A letter was received from Mr R. H. Tribe with reference to making a track as an outlet to Vogeltown. The Board decided that upon receipt of £5 it will be pleased to make the path as requested.—It was resolved to give the custodian a fortnight's holiday on full pay, at a time to be fixed by the Chairman and Secretary.—An offer by Dr. Hutchinson to raise a subscription to purchase white cross and other aquatic bowls was gratefully accepted, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mrs Copland for her donation of two garden seats.—The police are to be requested to enforce the by-laws relating to bathing in the lake.—It was also decided that new plates be procured and affixed to the Post's Bridge in commemoration of the gift by the late Mr J. T. Davis.—Mr Skinner was appointed overseer for the coming month.

TH, DECEMBER 27, 1900
BOXING DAY IN THE RECREATION
GROUND

Throughout the day a very large number of residents and excursionists visited the Grounds and derived pleasure from boating, feeding the many aquatic birds which are detailed on the lakes, picnicking, and other quiet amusements. The large lifeboat, which can now be hired at a trifling charge, was in request all afternoon, and one or two kind-hearted cherturers rounded up the children and gave them free trips for half an hour at a time. The members of the Board were in evidence all day unpacking and setting up the fireworks, and several lifeboats which they sent up during the morning went over the Racecourse, and served to advertise the event of the evening. The custodian, Mr Edgercombe, and his assistant, Mr Mace, are to be commended for the excellent order in which the Grounds are kept. Many townspeople who had not visited the "Race" for a few months were surprised to see the improvements which have been effected at the top and of the large lake, where the wilderness has been transformed and several new walks laid out. Towards nightfall the public began to stream into the Grounds, and Mr Cook and his helpers had a busy time in taking the gate moneys, which amounted to the handsome sum of about £24, representing an attendance of fully 1000 persons, big and little. The fireworks display was generally voted an excellent one, and from the firing of the signal at 8 o'clock until the last boom at 1.30, the fun was well kept up, and there was a noticeable absence of the pauses and delays which are often unavoidable in connection with these functions. Capt. Taunton, of the Guards, and Lieut. Cook, of the Rifles, directed operations at the Post's Bridge, while Mr Corhill was in charge of the lifeboat in the centre of the lake.

The pavilion was hung with Chinese lanterns, and here the City Band catered for the pleasure of the music-loving portion of the community, and did much to make the affair a success.

The trustees tender their sincere thanks for valuable assistance rendered by Capt. Taunton, Lieut. Cook, Messrs W. Beaumont, E. H. Tribe, Edward Gilmour, Walter Whittington, T. L. Williams, H. Smart, J. Battersworth, L. Roughton, Burnett, some of whom devoted the whole day to helping members of the Board in making necessary preparations. They also desire to gratefully acknowledge the aid of the City Band, whose members, in some cases at great inconvenience, contributed largely to the pleasure of the gathering.

1901

The Jockey Club had previously allowed the Recreation Ground Board to fence off, and use a piece of land they had acquired from the Brooklands Estate. In 1901 this piece of land was officially transferred to the Board. The area of land transferred was 3½ acres and lies to the east of the Serpentine between the Boathouse and the old Brooklands Boundary at the end of the Serpentine. It was mainly bare when the Board first got the use of the land and was partially planted on Arbor days of 1895 and 1896.

The curator Charles Edgecombe was sent to Raglan to collect plants. This was not the first time he had been sent to gather plants, but the first time he had been sent so far. This was all made possible because W. L. Newman had been the New Plymouth representative for the Union Steamship Company for many years. Edgecombe was given free passage for himself and the plants he collected. The Kauri Company of Auckland donated two substantial Kauri spars to be made into a flagpole, these were also shipped to New Plymouth free of charge thanks to W. L. Newman and the Union Steamship Company.

In 1901 the Board introduced tree labelling in the form of 10" x 6" zinc tablets. Kowhai trees were starting to bloom.

An unusual form of entertainment during the year was that of Alexander the Australian Blondin, a tightrope walker, who performed all sorts of daring feats while balancing on a 3/4" wire rope 30ft above the ground. The rope was most likely strung over the lake from one bank to the other.

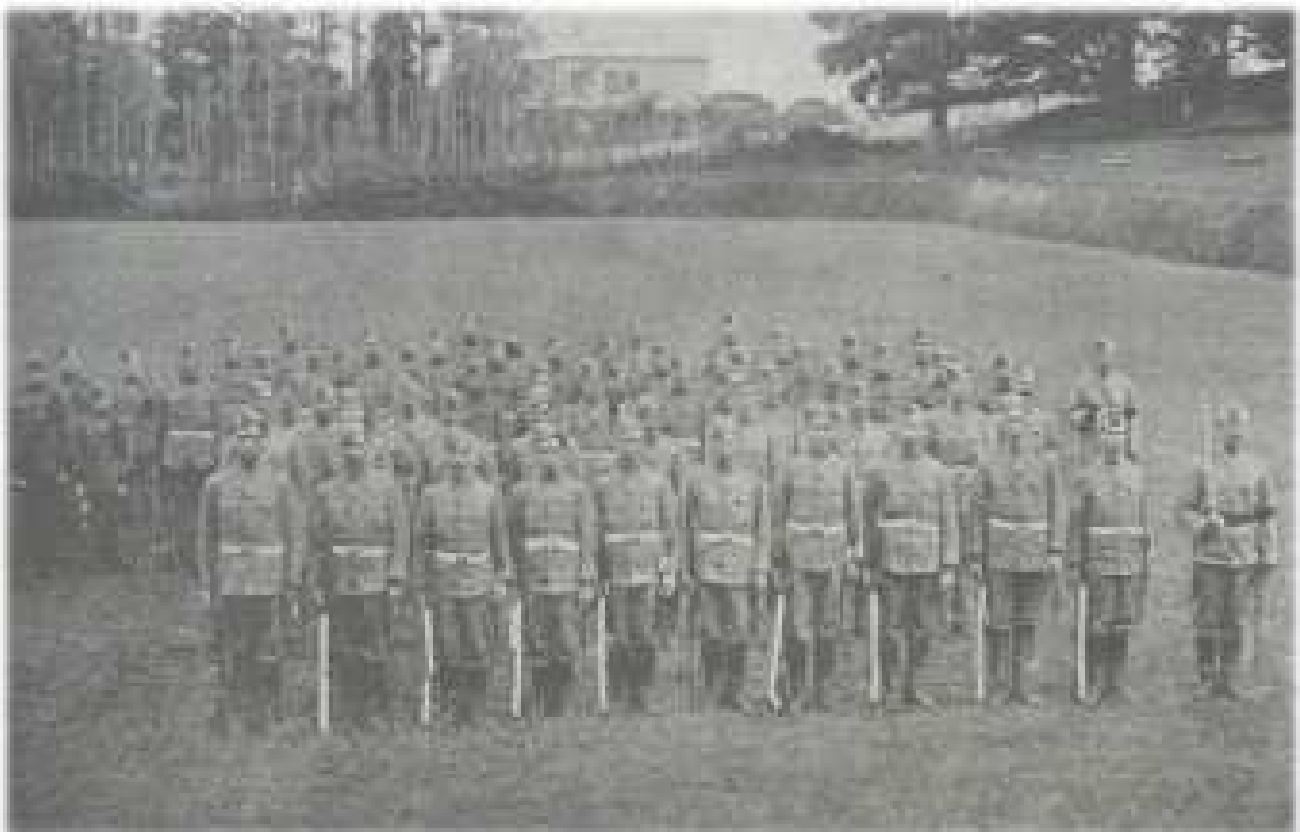
Several people donated plants including, Mr Pickett, Mrs Gordon, and Mr Hawes. The director of the Sydney Botanical Gardens sent several roots of *Pontederia crassipes*, a pale-yellow type of water lily. Also, the curator in his report to the Board about his Raglan trip stated, "I brought back with me a quantity of Mangeo, Tanekaha, and Wharangi plants; also, some specimens of native heath and the umbrella fern together with a quantity of Kowhai and Manuka seed."

Summary of significant events

- The Borough Council was invited to elect two of its members to sit on Recreation Ground Board.
- Curator (Edgecombe) sent to Raglan to collect native plants.
- Introduction of zinc tablets for tree name tags.
- Jockey Club land transferred to Recreation Ground. Part Block D (Part of Carrington's original Green Belt).
- Kauri Timber Co of Auckland donated two substantial kauri spars to be made into a flagstaff.
- Sash & Door Company donated 500 ft of 2-inch planking for seating.
- Memorial service for Queen Victoria.



Taranaki Volunteer Camp, Feb 1901. (*Auckland Weekly News*, 15 February 1901)



Taranaki Volunteer Camp, Feb 1901. Morning Parade. (*Auckland Weekly News*, 15 February 1901)

TH, JANUARY 7, 1901

**PROTECTION OF THE TUI
TO THE BIRD.**

SIR.—In answer to my letter of last week in your paper on the protection of the tui I have received information from various quarters from which I gather the two following facts:—First that the tui is nesting and bringing out its young in the Recreation Grounds; and secondly, that boys and young men are shooting this delightful and inoffensive bird in the Rec., and also in other localities around New Plymouth. One gentleman informs me that on Sunday morning, 30th December, a gang of youths were shooting birds along the eastern side of the Recreation Grounds and that up to that day tuis were constantly to be seen and heard in that locality, but since the Sunday quoted not a tui has been heard or seen. Another person tells me that on the same Sunday he picked up a fine tui-cook bird—shot through the wing by a bullet from a pea rifle in the neighbourhood of Mr Standish's, and his efforts to save it were ineffectual, the bird dying soon after it was found. Here then we have clear proof that this protected native bird is being destroyed right in our midst, and I appeal to all who read this to assist in stopping this cruel destruction of a perfectly harmless and beautiful bird; and one which it should be everybody's business to protect and preserve. In a similar way the beautiful gulls along our sea beach are being shot at by boys and men, and numbers of them destroyed in pure wantonness. Both these birds are protected by law and a stiff penalty can be enforced against anyone detected shooting them. A Vigilance Committee would perhaps have a good effect, in partly if not wholly stopping this desecration. I trust the Recreation Grounds Board will not lose any time in enforcing its by-laws against the carrying of fire arms within the Grounds. The Secretary of the Seabird Preservation Society will be glad to hear from those willing to assist in taking steps to stop this destruction of our native birds, not only in New Plymouth but over the adjoining district.—I am, &c.,

W. H. Spence.

**TH, JANUARY 16, 1901
TREE DAMAGE REWARD**

The Chairman of the Trustees of the Recreation Grounds advertises a reward for conviction of the person or persons who destroyed a young riara tree in the reserve.

**TH, FEBRUARY 5, 1901
VOLUNTEER CAMP**

The concert given by the Volunteers in their camp in the Recreation Grounds on Monday evening was a highly successful affair. The townspeople were present in large numbers, and the entertainment, although a large one, was found quite inadequate. In order, therefore, that those for whom there was not room inside might be able to enjoy the performance, the sides of the tent were folded up, and seats placed in the open. Captain Okey occupied the chair, and performed the difficult task of carrying out a programme that was impressive in a most happy manner. The programme

consisted chiefly of songs, all of which were well received. The City Band played an overture in good style, and two of the members contributed a vocal item. Perhaps the principal item of the evening was the popular Arrington's song, "Queen of the Earth." This was sung with a depth of pathos quite unusual, and its conclusion was greeted with loud and persistent applause. Altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent, and the large attendance, despite the threatening nature of the weather, is a further proof of the interest taken by the public in any movement with which our local Volunteers are associated.

**TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1901
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Monday night. Present: Messrs Corbitt (Chairman), Newman, Skinner, and Ford. The action of the Chairman in granting the use of the Grounds for the Valentine map was confirmed. The application of the City Band for the use of the Grounds for the Swimming Carnival on February 14th was granted on the usual terms. The Chairman's action was confirmed in regard to the arrangement with the Star Athletic Club for holding the Club's Easter Sports and a concert in the evening. The application of the Swimming Club to use the lake for swimming from 3 to 7 p.m. was granted. Mr H. Skerbope will be asked to furnish the list of members of the Club, and to be responsible for the collection of the subscriptions. Mr W. H. Roberts was thanked in connection with his moderate charges for repairing and relining the large boat. The question of a cow track suggested by Mr Tribe for the outlet to Vagabond was left in the hands of Mr Skinner. Accounts were passed for payment. Mr E. Cook was appointed treasurer for the month.

**TH, MARCH 14, 1901
ANOTHER NAME SUGGESTED**

SIR.—It has often occurred to me that a more pleasing name should be bestowed on our pleasure reserve than the title "Recreation Grounds." This term is now in common use corrupted into the senseless abbreviation "Rec.," which is often associated by strangers to the place with some wreck on the beach. How would "Taranaki Park" suit as a term for our pretty reserve? I should like to see opinions from other residents of the town.—I am, &c.,

PROCTOR.

**TH, MARCH 19, 1901
KAURI SPARS DONATED FOR
FLAGSTAFF**

The Kauri Timber Company of Auckland have kindly presented the Recreation Grounds Board with two long kauri spars, a lower mast and inquest, for the purpose of making a flagstaff for the grounds similar to the one at the breakwater.

TH, APRIL 9, 1901

**FIREWORKS DISPLAY AND
CONCERT.**

In the evening a fireworks display and concert by the Town Band were held in the grounds. The fireworks were supplied by the Recreation Grounds Board at the cost of some £25. The Band played an excellent programme. It was arranged to have several vocal numbers during the evening, but the singers disappointed the promoters of the affair. A sum of some £70 was taken at the sports gates, and about £20 at the night display. The Recreation Board will receive two-thirds of the net profits.

**TH, MAY 6, 1901
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Corbitt (chairman), Cook, Govey, Hughes, Newman, and Ford. The chairman's report was read and approved. Mr Pickett was thanked for his donation of slates. Mr West will be notified that his tenancy will be terminated at the end of the current year, as the Board intend to plant the piece of ground. At the instance of Mr Tribe the Kauri Timber Co. had invited their pleasure in donating to the Board two suitable haori spars for the erection of a flagstaff. Mr Newman stated that the Northern S.S. Co. will bring the spars here free of charge. A letter of thanks will be sent to each company. Mr Kelsey will be allowed to transfer nos. 1140 and 1151 to Mr Murray on the usual conditions. The Borough Council will be invited to elect annually two of their members to represent the Council on the Board. It will be suggested to the Committees of the Tukurua and Star Football Clubs that they should confer together with a view of making a joint application for the use of the sports ground for the current season. Permission was given the Town Band to hold sacred concerts in the grounds on Sunday afternoons. Messrs Standish and Kerr's account for the transfer of part D from the Taranaki Jockey Club to the Board was passed for payment. Mr E. Cook was elected chairman of the Board for the ensuing year. Mr Corbitt was appointed overseer for the month.

**TH, MAY 17, 1901
FUNDRAISING**

The Recreation Grounds Board acknowledge with thanks the receipt of several nests of pottaloris, cranes from the director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens. This is a beautiful pale yellow bird of white eye. The director was sent as the result of a number of the Board parties through the Sydney Gardens, and being struck with their beauty, took afterwards writing to the director of the Sydney Gardens.

**TH, JUNE 10, 1901
FUNDRAISING**

SIR.—In making a periodical visit to New Plymouth I naturally wanted to again see the very beautiful Recreation Grounds. Previous to going I asked a stranger to accompany me to the Rec. "The wreck! What did the boat come

where, and what was the cause of the disaster? I hastened to inform him that there was no loss of life—in fact, no shipwreck; but to pay a visit to the Recreation Grounds. Now, sir, do you not with many others think that the time has arrived that the odious telegrams or abbreviation should be abolished? Seeing that we give several places to no town or city in the colony in our patriotic feelings, I think that a better opportunity will not present itself than the present to perpetuate in loving memory our late beloved sovereign Queen Victoria; thus why not call the beautiful grounds Victoria Park. Trusting that an able pen will take up the suggestion.—I am, &c.,
PARATONG.

Roberts, June 8th, 1891.

TH, JULY 25, 1901 CURATOR GOES TO RAGLAN

The curator of the Recreation Grounds (Mr C. Kēpēcāke) proceeds to Raglan for the purpose of collecting plants indigenous to Kariki and Aotua districts. The Board is evidently determined to keep the Grounds well to the front, in the matter of our native flora.

TH, AUGUST 19, 1901 PLANTS FROM RAGLAN

In his report to the Recreation Grounds Board the custodian referring to his recent visit to Raglan stated:—"I brought back with me a quantity of manuka, tanabala, and wharangi plants; also some specimens of native heath and the umbrella fern, together with a quantity of kowhai, and manuka seed."

TH, AUGUST 19, 1901 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs Cook (chairman), Newman, Gerritt, Hughes, Gerritt, and Ford (Secretary). Mr T. K. Skinner was absent through illness. The Custodian's report was read and discussed. The Custodian also reported that he had collected a number of native trees, shrubs, and seeds on his recent visit to Raglan. The Board thanked the Custodian, and his expenses, £2 4s, were passed for payment. The application of Mr Taites, Patua Domain Board, for a donation of suitable shrubs, was acceded to, and the selection of same was left to the overseer. The secretary reported that overgrowth had been cleared away in Fille-street. The Board, on the application of the Town Clerk, will erect a fence along the frontage of a section in Liscalet-street in the dip before the entrance to the grounds is reached. The Board on Mr Coler's application expressed willingness to contribute their share of the cost of a legal wire fence, but advised Mr Coler not to do anything to the meanwhile as the Board are considering the alienation of the grounds. The Northern E.S. Co., were thanked for their liberal concession regarding the custodian's passage to Raglan. A sub-committee was appointed for the collection of the annual subscriptions. Mr Gerritt was appointed overseer for the ensuing month.

TH, AUGUST 19, 1901 SPORTS GROUND PLANS

Mr T. K. Skinner has now in hand the plans for extensive alterations and improvements in the Recreation Grounds, principally in connection with the sports ground. The plans, it is understood, are nearing completion.

TH, SEPTEMBER 17, 1901 FUNDRAISING 7-A-SIDE RUGBY

Friendly Societies' Seven A Side FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT.

In aid of Recreation Sports Ground.

Thursday, September 19th,
at 2.30 p.m.

At Recreation Grounds.

FIVE MATCHES.

Harrison Band and Town Band in attendance.

Admission: 50c.

H. J. HOLLIS (Umpire).

W. HENNINGSEN (Wicket-keeper).

ALLI Hon. Secretaries.

TH, SEPTEMBER 27, 1901 KOWHAI FLOWERING

The efforts of the Recreation Grounds Board in planting the best of native shrubs and trees in the reserve are now bearing fruit. This season some of the Kowhai are bearing bloom, the yellow drooping flowers looking very pretty. It is a wonder that the Kowhai is not more extensively planted in private grounds.

TH, OCTOBER 7, 1901 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Board met on Friday night. Present: Messrs E. Cook (chairman), Gerritt, Hughes, and Ford. Apologies were read from Messrs Gerritt, Newman, and Skinner. The custodian's monthly report was read and discussed. Mr Taylor, hon. sec. Patua Domain Board, wrote acknowledging donation of shrubs. It was that owing to the destruction of young plants by hares the secretary be authorized to issue special permits for shooting them. Messrs Cook and Gerritt were appointed a sub-committee to draw up a scale of prices for plants, shrubs, and trees. Mr Hollis, secretary of the Football Tournament, was thanked for a donation of £1 10s. The Board Content Committee wrote, asking what terms the Board would grant the use of the grounds for two afternoons during the contest. The Board decided that it considered it could not make a less charge than £10 a day, and the Board relied on the liberality of the management to pay a much larger amount should the contest prove a financial success. A delegation of the New Plymouth Cricket Club visited on the Board asking on what terms the Board would grant the use of the laws for the season. The application was acceded to on the same terms as last year, viz., £2 10s for the season. The Football Club were granted the grounds free of charge for a benefit match next Thursday. It was decided to close the grounds at 8 p.m. after 12 for football, except under special circumstances. Mr Gerritt was requested to acquire the cost of labels for naming the principal trees and shrubs in the grounds. Mr Hughes was appointed overseer for the month.

TH, OCTOBER 17, 1901 ZINC TABLETS FOR TREES

The zinc tablets for the classification of the trees in the Recreation Grounds are being rapidly prepared and will soon be in place. They are each about 10cm. by 6cm. in size painted white, while the botanical name and the vulgar name of the tree is in large black letters.

Mr Ford, the secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board, informs us that there is such great anxiety for complaints against persons, and particularly strangers, carrying their names on the rails of the Pier's Bridge, and on the seats in the "Rae" that the Board has decided to prosecute in the matter whenever a case can be made out.

TH, OCTOBER 25, 1901 TIMBER DONATION FOR SEATING

The Path and Door Company have kindly donated to the Recreation Grounds 400 feet of seasoned 2 inch planking, for the erection of additional seats in the grounds.

TH, NOVEMBER 2, 1901 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday evening in Mr E. G. Hughes' office their being present Messrs Gerritt, Hughes, and Ford (secretary). Resolutions of thanks were passed to Mrs Gordon for a donation of aquatic and other plants, and to the Path and Door Company for a quantity of timber donated for seats. Mr Newman was appointed overseer for the month. Mr Dockrill, as chairman of the Board Content Committee visited on the Board to urge a reduction in the charge (£10 per day) set it for the use of the ground during the contest. He pointed out the liberal terms given to the Waingaiti committee in connection with the grounds for the contest there. Again, New Plymouth's population was much less than Waingaiti's, and the gate receipts would therefore be less here. Mr Dockrill also pointed out that several improvements and alterations would be required at the ground to make it suitable for contest purposes. It was finally decided that a committee of the Board consisting of Messrs Cook (chairman), Gerritt, and Skinner, would meet representatives of the Content Committee on the ground and confer with them as to improvements.

TH, DECEMBER 3, 1901 FUNDRAISING

RECREATION GROUNDS,
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday,
at 8 p.m.

BLONDIN AND FIREWORKS.

ALEXANDER, the Australian Blondin, will Exhibit on the Three quarter Inch Wire Rope, thirty feet high, Ride a Large Bicycle Wheel to and fro in a Blast of Fireworks.

6278

Admission, 6d.

TH, DECEMBER 3, 1901
TIGHTROPE WALKER & FIREWORKS

Alexander, the Australian Blondin, will give an exhibition in the Recreation Grounds for three nights commencing on Thursday night at 8 o'clock. The performances will be illustrated by fireworks. The press everywhere speak of Alexander's performances as being wonderful, showing he is a past-master of his profession. He is as much at home on the high wire rope as most people are on terra firma. He walks forwards and backwards, stands on his head, balances on a chair having only one leg, lifts both feet off the wire, rides a model horse totem, dances the Highland fling, wheels a harrow, will carry a boy or lady across, gives an amusing act blindfolded while tied in a bag, rides to and fro on a large bicycle wheel, and kneels on the seat in a grand display of fireworks. As the admission is fixed at 6d no doubt there will be very large gatherings to see these marvellous acts of skill and nerve.

TH, DECEMBER 4, 1901
TIGHTROPE INSTALLED

Blondin's wire rope was erected today in the Recreation Grounds. The apparatus will be well lighted up, and special music will add to the enjoyment of the entertainment. All persons passing through the gates will be given a numbered ticket and prices will be given away. People are requested to keep their tickets.

TH, DECEMBER 7, 1901
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday night, those being present Messrs Cook (chairman), Skinner, Hutton, Ford, Gorrie, and Newman. The offer of Mr Hight of Napier, to exchange plants or beds was gratefully acknowledged, and the Board's reply will point out that they have not the means for providing for beds, but will be glad to exchange plants. It was decided that the Board's employees be insured in the New Zealand Accident Insurance Company. Correspondence was read from the Secretary of the Board Control Committee re use of the grounds. After discussion the Board decided that the use of the grounds be granted to the Control Committee on the terms stated in the letter of the 18th November. At the same time the Board considers that if the Board Committee have a successful financial meeting they should make a donation over and above the amount charged for the grounds. The application of the Salvation Army to hold a picnic in the grounds was granted provided that no collection was made in the grounds. It was resolved that Mr Hester be thanked for his donation of native shrubs and also for his valuable suggestion re-applying for plants from the Government nurseries at Hororua. Mr West's tenancy will be confirmed to March 31st, 1912. Accounts were passed. Mr Skinner was appointed overseer for the coming month. Mr Corbill apologised for absence from the meeting.

TH, DECEMBER 18, 1901
CONCERT AND FIREWORKS

The Recreation Ground Board will have a grand open air concert and fireworks in the Grounds on Boxing night. As there will be special trains to Waitara and Stratford at 10.15 p.m. there should be a large attendance of country people.

TH, DECEMBER 19, 1901

RECREATION GROUNDS,
ON
BOXING NIGHT.
—
FIREWORKS I
—
FIREWORKS II

SINGING AND MUSIC, ETC., ON
THE LAKE.

Garfield Haast's Services are Secured
for the Evening.

Special Trains to Waitara and Stratford
at 10.15 p.m.

H. FORD,
Hon. Sec.

TH, DECEMBER 27, 1901
CONCERT A SUCCESS

A very large number of people patronised the entertainment in the Recreation Grounds on Boxing night, over 200 being taken. Both the concert and fireworks display were successful and patronage was well pleased.



Queen Victoria's memorial service, February 1901 (Puke Ariki PHO2002-26)

QUEEN VICTORIA'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

TARANAKI HERALD FEBRUARY 4, 1901

MOURNING SERVICE AT NEW PLYMOUTH

The mighty heart-throb of grief—grief almost sublime in its eloquent unity and sincerity—which stirred the British nation on Saturday is a touching and powerful manifestation of the reverence and love borne for our late Sovereign. To-day's telegraphic despatches from all parts strike the same keynote—the immeasurable sorrow felt, and recognition of the great loss which has afflicted the people, mingled with a feeling of thankfulness that the inexorable decree of Providence had been withheld so long. As in other places throughout the colonies, the mourning service in New Plymouth was impressively carried out. Early in the morning the weather was beautifully fine, but towards midday the elements, as though in commensure with the solemnity of the occasion, took a change, and the falling of the bells at 12 o'clock was followed by gusts of thunder and a heavy downpour of rain. For some time it was doubtful if the service could be held in the open air, but as there was a slight cessation of rain at 2 o'clock it was decided to adhere to the original programme. A large concourse of people assembled at the Recreation Grounds. The first procession consisted of the Fire Brigade and Friendly Societies, headed by the Town Band. They came the members of the Taranaki Rifles, Guards, Waitara corps, and Central School Cadets, under the command of Major Mills, and led by the City Band. The slow measured tread of the procession to the musical strains of the Dead March added to the solemnity of the occasion. On arrival at the grounds the companies were marshalled by Mr F. L. Webster in the form of a square around the platform erected for the occasion of the story on the grass facing the terraces. The plot on a was draped with black broadcloth, the front being decorated with a wreath five feet in diameter, of white agapanthus, ferns, and ruscus, having in the centre the initial letter "V" on a ground of black crepe. This was flanked by a number of other wreaths of white flowers and ferns. In the centre stood a flagstaff, from which hung the Union Jack half-mast, with a black streamer above. The arrangement of the platform was carried out by Messrs C. E. Hallinger, M. Gore, and Tribe. The Royal Regent Memorial Fountain was draped with Imperial purple, surmounted by a wreath of white trumpet flowers and greenery. The principal wreaths were those of Misses Horsbourn and Miss Cockill, and the other wreaths were arranged by the same young ladies, assisted by Misses Hayward and Aitchison. There were also a number of other willing workers in the grounds during the morning, including His Worship the Mayor, the Chairman of the Recreation Grounds (Mr F. P. Cockill), the honorary secretary (Mr H. Ford), and Mr Lewis Hampton. Practically at 1 o'clock the service was commenced with the recital of the Lord's Prayer. This was to have been said by Ven. Archbishop Greville, who was unavoidably absent, and Rev. W. Drew took his place. A hymn, "O God! our Help in Ages Past," given by Rev. Mr Benson, followed. On the

lower terraces were arranged the united choir, Mr W. Perry presiding at the harmonium, assisted by Mr Dawson with the organ. As the words slowly welled from the large crowd, which lined the terraces on all sides, the scene was profoundly impressive. Following this came the following programme:—Prayer, Rev J. Ings; First Lesson, Psalm 91, Rev F. G. Evans; Hymn, "Peace, Perfect Peace," given out by Ensign Drylie; Second Lesson, II. Cor. 11th chapter, Rev S. J. Seapell; Hymn, "Book of Ages Clost for Me," Rev W. Cannon; Hymn, "For Ever With the Lord," Rev W. Drew; Prayer, Rev J. Nixon.

At the conclusion of the third hymn, the Rev S. S. Osborne delivered an address appropriate to the occasion. He said that to pronounce a fitting eulogium on our beloved Queen was like attempting the impossible, and as it was impossible so it also was unnecessary, like the effort to paint the sky or add inches to the diameter. Queen Victoria had taken such a hold of the hearts not only of her own people, but of the whole civilized and uncivilized world, that his was convinced her name will never die, that it will be one of the sainted names of our earth and will live as long as time lasts. For more than 48 years our great and good Queen had occupied the highest position in the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, wearing the white flower of a blameless life that sheds light which beats upon a Cross and shadows every list.

The Empire of Durio the Greek was a vast one, but the British Empire is five times as large. Rome ruled her colonies in every part of the then known world but her empire was less than a fourth of the British Empire. Russia's territories are large—more than half of Europe and almost half of Asia—but our British Empire exceeds the Czar's Empire by more than an eighth. France is great and powerful, but the British Empire is sixteen times its size. Germany is also powerful and rank, but the British people have an Empire more than forty times as extensive; and these areas did not represent so many square miles—all that is best in what we specially desire of civilization is found in our midst. Our Empire is the greatest on earth, and the greatest factor in our Empire was our dead Queen, in whose memory they had met together that day. She had for those long years set her people an example which they might well follow. She had proved herself a true mother to the British nation, and her family rose as that day all over the British dominion and called her blessed. Her memory will ever keep green and fragrant in the hearts of the British people. The people had been so much accustomed to say "God Save our Queen," that it will be hard for us to realize that she is no longer with us—that the sceptre has passed to other hands. There was nothing to sorrow for in her decease; she has gone from her people, her children, full of years, full of honour; the whole world lays open her casket the treasures of its respect, regard and affection. God, in His goodness, enabled her to discharge

the duties of her high position almost to the end of her long life. The revered gentlemen then proceeded to enforce two lessons—one individual and the other national. Character is, he said, the only possession we can really call our own, even our Queen must go from this world empty-handed and enter the presence of Almighty God with naught but her character. She revealed her faith in God, and His salvation by her works, and her works remain and will stand the test. Does she not beckon us to follow her in this need in our narrow selves to look well to the matter of character. We, too, could individually leave our mark in the world's history. We are not only the great colonizing nation; we are also the great Christianizing nation, the people whom God has chosen, and to be the means of making known the Gospel of His salvation. The Rev. Mr Osborne concluded by stating that the sympathies of the people that he went forth to the Royal mourners, and especially would he pray the Almighty God for our King and Queen, but His grace may be vouchsafed to them, that their mother's mantle may descend and rest upon them, and that a double measure of prosperity granted to her may be bestowed on them.

The service concluded with the City Band playing the Dead March, and the Town Band the "Garland of Flowers," followed by three volleys fired by the volunteers.

Mr A. Fletcher carried out the duties of conductor of the musical part of the service.

1902

Thomas Kingwell Skinner resigned from the Board after twenty years of valuable service. As a surveyor he had laid out most of the tracks in the park. He made plans for the development of the Sports Ground and the development of Manhattan Island. Skinner was replaced by Stephenson Percy Smith, better known as S. Percy Smith, also a surveyor. Smith had come to New Zealand with his family as a small boy, learning his trade as a cadet under Octavius Carrington as did Skinner.

The national band contest held in March was a huge success for the town. Fifteen bands came from all over the country to compete and it was said to be the biggest ever held. It attracted huge crowds from all over the province with daily attendances of 4000 to 5000. Extra seating had been put in the Sports Ground for the event.

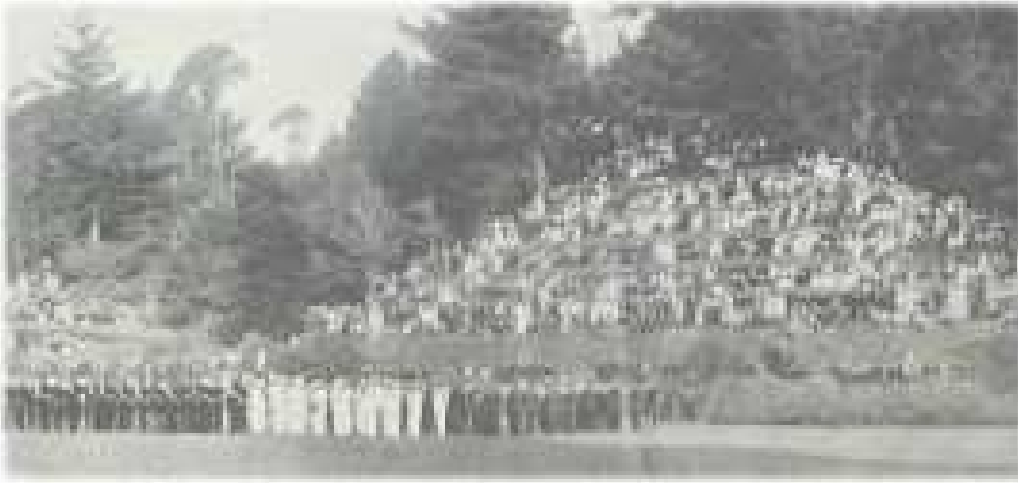
During the year fishponds were established in the park in conjunction with the Acclimatisation Society. At that time W. L. Newman, a longstanding member of the Recreation Ground Board was also the chairman of the local Acclimatisation Society. The ponds were located where the Hatchery Lawn is now, this is why the name was given. The plan was that the society would supply trout fry and the Recreation Ground curator Charles Edgecombe would feed the fish with food supplied, mashed liver being the main diet. Once the fish were big enough the Acclimatisation Society would transfer them to local rivers and maybe a few in the main lake in the grounds. The first batch of 5000 Rainbow Trout were liberated in the ponds in October, the fry being approximately an inch long. Over the years there were issues such as water quality, eels finding their way into the ponds etc., but they did persist on and off for about thirty years.

An unusual event was the influx of roughly 40 wild ducks which put pressure on the resources of the Board. They made a plea for feed and the Acclimatisation Society donated £5 for that purpose.

Plant donations included: seeds from Mr Chapman. Package of assorted seeds of African flowering shrubs from the Natal Botanic Gardens, per favour of Mr M. Fraser who had recently returned from South Africa. Native shrubs and edible cabbage tree from Captain Wilson, Smart Road, and native shrubs from Mr Whitmore of Invercargill and Mr J. Kelly of Awakino.

Summary of significant events

- T.K. Skinner resigns from the Board of Trustees.
- S. Percy Smith appointed to Board of Trustees.
- National band contest.
- Fishponds established for rearing trout.
- E. M. Smith M.H.R donated six white swans.
- 5000 Rainbow Trout fry released into ponds
- Another push to rename the grounds.



New Zealand Band Contest—Packed Southern Terrace. (*Auckland Weekly News* March 20th 1902)



New Zealand Band Contest—Band Playing Facing Eastern Terrace
(*Auckland Weekly News* March 20th 1902)



New Zealand Band Contest: Reception by the Mayor.
(*Auckland Weekly News*, March 20th 1902)

It was resolved that Messrs. Gowett and Norman be a committee to inquire into the damage done in the grounds (particularly to the box hedges around the lake) on the occasion of the Central School swimming sports, and to initiate proceedings should they consider it advisable.

A letter will be sent to the Board of Centert Committee, pointing out the necessity of providing adequate police protection in the grounds.

It was decided to instruct the custodian to prevent any person going on the lawn until the competition of the N.I.R.B.A. are over.

The letter of Mr. Hughes, esq., will be acknowledged, and he is to be cordially thanked for his valuable services.

It was resolved that on receiving a deposit of £2 to cover expenses of advertising, etc., the Board offer for tender for a term of 21 years the sections No. 1047 and 1048 mentioned in Mr. Courtney's letter; the deposit to be returned in the event of a tender being accepted.

Mr. Cockill gave notice to move at our meeting: "That the grounds be henceforth known as Victoria Park (or Queen's Park), and that the name be painted on the entrance gates and used in all notices relating to the grounds."

Mr. Cockill was appointed caretaker for the ensuing month.

largest hold in the colony. Impending the Mayor wished the present contest success, and called for three cheers for the visiting bands.

The bands then played in alphabetical order, each then meeting with hearty applause. The programmes follows:—

- Deanston, "King Carved."
- Dunedin Naval, "Habeas Corpus March."
- Grassy Creek, "Drum and Trumpet."
- Ituraki, "Order the Double Eagle."
- Kaikoura, "Rattings."
- Manteron, "North Star."
- North East Valley, "Activity."
- Takamarua North, "Havellar."
- Rangiora, "Step Forward."
- Waikato, "Distant Greeting."
- Wellington, "S.B. and S.F."
- Taranaki, "Independents."

Afterwards the bands were marched to the Sports ground for the playing of "Hunts and Dances" as music. Scarcely overdone in the grounds lined the sports enclosure, and as the bands formed up back to the crowd clapped them heartily. The Ituraki men, in the fine weather uniform of snowy white, with black facings, headed by their scarlet coated drum major, particularly took the taste of the crowd. Another pleasing uniform is that of the Manteron Municipal—black green and gold. Lieutenant Baird, master of the Wellington Garrison Band, conducted the massed bands, and did it well. The effect of the massed band-playing was a splendid one, and above the enthusiastic applause which followed the finish could be hear shouts of "encore," and then after time a rattle of applause swept round the crowd, who, however, could not bring the bands again "to light."

During the afternoon the bandmen and their friends were entertained at afternoon tea, in two tents, which were under the charge of a ladies committee.

This (Wednesday) morning, before the luncheon adjournment, Mr. Schwarz, the judge, came on the stage and said he desired to say a few words with regard to the quartets playing on the previous night. There was one party which played an arrangement from Deshayes's "Fidello." He had no hesitation in saying he was thoroughly charmed with the manner in which it was rendered, because it was exceptionally well done, up to letter G, when an unfortunate contretemps occurred which destroyed the effect of the good they had done. It was true the band recovered very soon and returned to their original form, but the accident was too pointed to be overlooked, at the same time he felt so strongly on the manner in which they had played that he thought it would in any case comfort them to know that their efforts had been appreciated.

Mr. Leach, a member of the Kaikoura Band, is an old Taranaki boy.

TH, MARCH 12, 1902
BENEFIT CONCERT FOR TRAIN DRIVER

RECREATION GROUNDS.
FRIDAY AFTERNOON,

At 2 o'clock.

Grand Concert,
GIVEN BY
VISITING BANDS

For the Benefit of the Widow and Six Children of the late Engine Driver Nylance, Accidentally killed on Tuesday last.

Tickets, 1/-.

Treasurer: His Worship the Mayor.

THE MARCHING CONTESTS that were held in the Recreation Grounds this afternoon were a great success, the whole of the province being well represented in the vast concourse of people who thronged round the sports enclosure, where the tests were held. It was estimated that there were between 6000 and 8000 spectators in the Grounds.

The 11 o'clock train from Blenheim brought some 1500 persons into town, there being spectators even on the train, all crowded.

When the bands marched up Devon street on their way to the Recreation Grounds the sidewalks were just as densely thronged as they were on Tuesday. After the bands had passed the spectators they had no time in wandering their way to the Recreation Grounds.

The following are the points made by the N.B. and W. competition committee on Wednesday afternoon:—C. Davis (Kaikoura), 100; A. Luckin (Grassy Creek), 78; F. Huggins (N.E. Valley), 75; M. Greenford (Dunedin Naval), 72; E. Fraser (Dunedin), 68; H. Reid (Waikato), 65; C. H. Aldridge (Manteron Municipal), 64; J. Rana (Ituraki), 55.

E Flat Horn results:—J. McKenna (Dunedin Naval), 60, maximum.

D. Whelan (Dunedin Naval), 78.
A. McNeil (Kaikoura), 78.
E. Wainwright (Wellington Garrison), 78.

S. Hallor (Waikato), 71.
H. Hall (Wellington Garrison), 71.
W. Taylor (Grassy Creek), 71.
C. Yessan (Dunedin Naval), 71.
E. Gould (Waikato), 71.
R. Hylton (Waikato), 71.
R. Nicholas (Wellington), 71.
Thos. Smith (Dunedin), 61.
A. Jones (N.E. Valley), 58.
G. Jackson (Waikato), 55.
D. Ross (N.E. Valley), 50.
E. Pratt (Taranaki Garrison), 50.
A. Williams (Dunedin), 50.
Joseph Congreve (Waikato), 50.
W. Cockillard (Taranaki Garrison), 52.

Mr. J. H. Bennett has donated a silver medal for the best solo-drummer in the marching contest to-day.

Chatting with a Blenheim representative a Wellington musical man said the contest has been splendidly managed. "They've got the people with them; that is the point where so many other contests have failed. Now Plymouth has set an example to the larger centres in this contest. Take Wellington, for instance, they never managed to get the people with them as they have done here. It's great," he said.

Mr. McKenna this is proving himself an excellent director; no errors have occurred under his careful supervision.

TH, APRIL 1, 1902
EASTER FETE

The chief holiday attraction in town on Monday was St. Mary's Church Easter fete in the Recreation Grounds. Though the weather turned somewhat doubtful about half past one o'clock, it was not sufficiently threatening to seriously affect the attendance, which was very large, £75 being taken at the gates. The various stalls accounted for another £40 or so, and the splendid financial success of the fete should be very gratifying to all those who have worked so hard in connection with it. The produce stall was under the management of Mesdames

Band Contest Garden Party.

The day remained fine on Tuesday for the Garden Party in the Recreation Grounds in honor of the visiting bands, and the attendance at the grounds was, it is said, a record one. There must have been well over 5000 people present, the gate money amounting to £187.

The bands paraded at 1.30 at Egmont street, and the rapidly with which Captain Adj. Taurien marshalled them and got them away to time was commented upon. Each band marched off playing its respective march tune, the large crowd, swarming like bees round the starting point, throwing into striking relief the bright uniforms, the order, and the rhythmic movement of the bands.

The Grounds being reached the bands formed up near the stands to receive the official welcome of the Mayor. A number of "snap shot brigade" were busy at this point taking records of a very effective picture.

The Mayor, Mr. E. Cockill, offered the Council of the N.I.R.B.A. and the visiting bands, welcome in appropriate and hearty terms. He was sure every effort would be made to treat the visitors in such a way that they would have all pleasant recollections to carry away with them. He hoped the presence of so many excellent bands would have a beneficial effect in advancing musical culture in the district. He considered this was one of the aims of the Association. He said it was a source of much gratification to the people of New Plymouth that the first contest held here should be the

W. D. Webster, Cliff, Stanford, Standish, Yates, Evans, Alexander, H. Cook, Miss Haas and others. A luncheon booth was attended to by Messrs. K. M. Smith, Deakill, Todd, Jones, Misses Robin and Deacon. A fancy stall was presided over by Messrs. Skinner, Dack, Courtney, Haines, Misses Bosworth and Duranah; a candy stall by Messrs. C. W. Goveat and McKellar and others; an afternoon tea booth by Messrs. O'Brien, Hawkins, and Purser; and afternoon tea was dispensed in the rotunda by Messrs. Percy Smith, Newman, Collins, Foster, and others. All these stalls did a very brisk business, as the financial result proves.

Fancy dress football, marching glee (trained by Mr. Duckworth), May pole dances, physical drills by the Central School children were among the attractions to interest and amuse the crowd. Fortune-telling for which Mr. Traggitt was responsible, and a number of gramophone items (Mr. Boulton's contribution) were other items of entertainment, while music by the Town Band filled in all gaps. The items given by the Central School children were under the supervision of Miss Amy Crawford. Boys' and girls' races were got off during the afternoon by Mr. C. T. Mills, and Messrs. W. H. Skinner, and Stanley Shaw executed their duties of supervision and organization admirably. Two ponies kindly sent by Mrs. Lewis, proved a great attraction for the children, who kept the "gee-gaws" away giving them pony rides round enclosure.

There is every reason for gratification that the Garden Pets should have realised in so substantial an amount being raised for the Church funds.

TH, MAY 3, 1902 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board met on Friday evening. A letter was received from Mr. Percy Smith, covering a list of native names from which he thought one could be chosen as suitable for the Recreation Grounds. Mr. Cockill not being present, his motion regarding the name of the grounds was deferred till next meeting. The custodian's report was read and discussed. A letter was received from Mr. Murray asking permission to top some pine and spruce trees adjoining his property, as the falling needles were getting into his water tanks and interfering with the growth of his crops. Mr. Murray's request was granted on condition that the "topping" is done under the custodian's direction. It was resolved that in accordance with the custodian's suggestion, 25 or 30 yards of gravel be procured from the Government gravel-pit for the repaving of the main paths in the grounds. The Borough Council applied for the use of the grounds on Corporation Day for a bats and pyrotechnic display. The application was granted on condition that persons are appointed to prevent injury to the grounds. It was decided to call tenders for the lease of section 1002. Resolutions were passed thanking Mr. Murray for a donation of £14 to the Board's funds; and the Band Contest Committee for their very liberal donation of £21 10s. It was resolved that the offer of Dr. Lovings to exchange plants and shrubs be accepted with thanks. The Tuhupa Club were granted the use of the grounds for the evening concert, on the usual conditions. Journals containing 100 to 200 were

passed for payment. Mr. Hughes was appointed secretary for the coming month. The suggestion made to the Board that they should hold a week's musical stall to that held in Wairoa ("Britannia's Call to Arms," under the direction of Signor Bernard) was considered and the Board decided to hold a special meeting to further discuss the matter.

TH, MAY 12, 1902 FISH PONDS IN RECREATION GROUNDS

Taranaki Acclimatisation Society.

The annual meeting was held in the Town Hall on Saturday afternoon.

Present: Messrs. W. L. Newman (Chairman), J. Gibson, H. Newland, S. Hill, H. J. Day, W. Dewley, E. G. Allworth, Clarke, and E. McMillan (secretary and treasurer).

The question of establishing ponds in the Recreation Grounds for fry was then considered. Messrs. Dewley and Hill supported Mr. Day's suggestion. Mr. Hill moved that it be an instruction to expend not more than £50 in connection with establishing ponds in the Recreation Grounds and forming an aquarium, and to make arrangements with the custodian of the grounds to feed the fish. —Mr. Day seconded the motion, which was carried.

TH, MAY 27, 1902 WILD DUCKS INVADE LAKE

A large number of wild ducks have taken up their quarters in the Recreation Grounds lake recently. It is supposed that the freedom from the attacks of sportsmen and dogs has made them regard the lake as a safe abode. These visitors, however, added to the swans and ducks habitually there are a tax on the resources of the Board. Any one, therefore, who consumes grain of any kind will be conferring a favour by sending it to the custodian.

TH, JUNE 11, 1902 MONEY TO FEED DUCKS DONATED

Mr. Harris Ford, secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board, acknowledges a donation of £5 from the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society to provide a fund to maintain the large number of wild ducks that have taken up their homes on the lakelets in the grounds. It is estimated that there are fully 40 wild ducks in the grounds.

TH, JUNE 13, 1902 SWANS FOUND DEAD ON SPORTS FIELD

Two Kook swans, who had their habitat in the lower lakelet in the Recreation Grounds, were found dead on the football ground on Thursday morning. The birds were lying side by side, but there were no indications to show how they met their death. It was a custom of the birds to fastick for food on the football ground.

TH, JUNE 18, 1902 SEED DONATION

Mr. Harris Ford, secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board, acknowledges receipt of a valuable donation of a package of assorted seeds of African foresting shrubs from the Natal Botanic Gardens, per favour of Mr. M. Frazer, who recently returned from South Africa. Should the shrubs acclimatise well they will prove a great attraction in the grounds. It is the intention of the Board to reciprocate the gift later on.

TH, JULY 5, 1902 SPORTS GROUND SUPERVISOR APPOINTED

Mr. A. E. A. Clarke has accepted appointment by the Trustees of the Recreation Grounds to the office of honorary supervisor on all occasions when sports are being carried on. The need for someone vested with adequate authority to prevent damage and bring offenders to book has long been apparent to spectators of football matches and other athletic fixtures, and the appointment so judiciously made cannot fail to have a good effect. Mr. Clarke will be able to enlist the active co-operation of the managers of the different clubs, most of whom are keenly alive to the annoyance caused at times by a few thoughtless men.

TH, JULY 14, 1902 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At the last meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board there were present: — Messrs. Cook (Chairman), Cockill, Goveat, Hughes, Newman, and Ford. A donation of £5 from the Acclimatisation Society to a fund for purchasing food for wild ducks, was acknowledged. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. M. Frazer for donation of seeds from Natal. Mr. Lealand was thanked for donation of food for the swans. Mr. T. K. Skinner sent in his resignation as a member. It was decided, that the members of the Board are extremely sorry that Mr. T. K. Skinner has sent in his resignation after so many years of service to the Board, and desire to place on record that his relations with every member of the Board have always been of the most friendly description, and that his valuable services have saved the Board hundreds of pounds; and that as a slight recognition of Mr. Skinner's services he be permitted with a life membership ticket of the grounds. The secretary was instructed to deposit with Mr. Spence for safe keeping the policy of workmen's insurance, and deed of transfer from the Johnny Club to the Board. In reply to a deputation the Board agreed to the ground being used for a cricket match against an English team on these conditions:—The sum of £10 if gate receipts do not exceed £100, but if the gates do exceed that sum the Board to take 25 per cent. of the take. The wages of the custodian were fixed at 30s, and his assistant 25s as from July 1st. Mr. C. W. Goveat was elected chairman for the year. Mr. H. Percy Smith's name was recommended to the Colonial Secretary for the vacancy on the Board. Mr. A. E. A. Clarke was appointed hon. supervisor of the grounds when sports, etc., are held. Mr. Newman was appointed overseer for the month. Accounts were passed.

TH, JULY 21, 1902
PLANT DONATION

Mr H. Ford, hon. sec. of the Recreation Board, acknowledges parcel of native shrubs, edible cabbage trees, from Captain Wilson, Smart Road.

TH, JULY 28, 1902
PLANT DONATION

The Secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board acknowledges donations of native shrubs from Mr Whitmore of Invercargill, and Mr J Kelly of Arahuan.

TH, OCTOBER 16, 1902
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Board met on Monday night. Present: Messrs Gerratt (chairman) Corhill, Newman, and Ford. The custodian's report was read and discussed. The appointment of Mr Percy Smith as a member of the Board in place of Mr C. K. Sclater was read from the Gazette. The thanks of the Board was tendered to a gentleman in Invercargill for donation of native shrubs. Mr F. V. Richmond was granted a 21 years' lease of section 1118 at £3 a year, rent payable half-yearly in advance. Mr Courtney was granted 21 years' lease of sections 1047 and 1048 at £3 for the first seven years, and £4 for the balance, the chairman to approve of the conditions. Mr Sumner's resignation as solicitor to the Board was received with regret, and a vote of thanks was tendered him for his gratuitous services to the Board. Messrs Standish and Kerr were appointed solicitors. Mr R. C. Hughes was granted six months' leave of absence from the meetings. Mr R. Cook was pointed overseas for the coming month.

TH, OCTOBER 24, 1902
FISH PONDS ESTABLISHED

Acclimatisation Work. FRY FOR THE RECREATION GROUNDS.

Mr D. McAllan, the secretary of the Acclimatisation Society, this morning liberated 5000 rainbow trout in the ponds that have been established in the Recreation Grounds. The ponds have been made in the low-lying piece of land near the middle lake. They have been covered over with wire netting, and patent manna have been placed at the ends to prevent the fry being carried out by the running water. Mr C. Edgewood, the custodian of the grounds, will attend to the fry, and will feed them daily on mashed liver, etc. When the fry attain a certain length—they are now about an inch long—they will be taken out and thrown in the streams of the district. It is to be hoped that no person will disturb the ponds as the fry can be easily seen without interfering with the covering or netting.

Mr McAllan expects 10,000 brown trout fry in a few days from the Mackenzie hatcheries, but these will be liberated in the streams without any precautions as to their development. The rainbow evidently need a little care before they are liberated to look after themselves.

TH, NOVEMBER 25, 1902
FIRM CRICKET PITCH

A testimonial was given by a cricketer at Saturday's meeting to the solidity of the Recreation Ground. When it was mentioned that the Jockey Club's horse meter and roller had been promised to put the ground in order, one of those present asked if there were shoes for the horse. "What do you want shoes for?" asked another. "The horse won't hurt that ground." "No," replied the other, "but the ground will crack his hoofs."

TH, DECEMBER 13, 1902
ENGLISH CRICKET TEAM TALK

Sir,—May I ask for a line in your valuable paper for a few remarks on the forthcoming cricket match on January 1st and 2nd, 1903. Those enthusiasts who have formed themselves into a committee, mainly on the strength of an occasional score against some local club, for the purpose of fixing the preliminaries must surely be judging English county cricket by the style of play at present in vogue amongst the lower class of New Zealand. None of them can have seen a first class cricket match to judge by the way they are behaving now. The majority of the players comprising the English team are first class county men, one or two of them being able to hold their own in an English representative eleven. I have seen some of them make centuries against the finest bowling in England, and North Taranaki is all the glory expects to be the one of these, and by putting four extra men in the side, yes, to actually beat them, or at the very least to give them a hard game. I venture to state that the English team will not even be able to give an exhibition game against any 15 or 20 Taranaki could put in the field. I understand from advertisements that the game is to be played on the Recreation Ground. May I ask if the local team intend placing their "hold" on the terraces that surround the pitch? I may add for the benefit of those who will doubtless say I know nothing about the game, that I have seen and followed for many years first class cricket in England, and have the pleasure of numbering amongst my friends some of the first English amateurs. I have also seen cricket in Taranaki!—I am, etc.

TH, DECEMBER 29, 1902
RUSSIAN GEESE DONATED

Mr Ford, honorary secretary of the Recreation Board, acknowledges a donation of a pair of Russian geese from Mr Holden, of Makiro.

TH, DECEMBER 30, 1902

CRICKET. NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1st & 2nd, 1903.

Two Days in the New Plymouth
Recreation Grounds.

VISIT OF Lord Hawke's TEAM OF ENGLISH AMA- TEUR CRICKETERS.

The Team comprises such well-known players as Lord Hawke, McGabey, Warner, Saucy, Botsford, Dawson, Fane, Latham, Taylor, and Rev. A. F. Withham, and will be pitted against a Northern Taranaki XI.

A Chance of a Lifetime,
Never to be Repeated.

Admission (Each Day, In.

Refreshments to be obtained on the
Grounds.

For Train Arrangements See Posters

F. H. ROBERTSON,
Hon. Secretary

TH, DECEMBER 30, 1902
PITCH PREPARATION FOR CRICKET
GAME

The Recreation Ground is being put in new order for the international cricket match on New Year's Day. Both ends of the pitch have been tarfed at a cost of £8, and the Taranaki Jockey Club's horse mower is at work on the outfield. A good deal of wire glass remains the efforts of the mower, but if this cannot be cut down on a second attempt, a scythe will probably be brought into requisition. The holes at the practice wickets are being filled up with clay, and altogether, though the ground will not be a Kennington Oval or a Lord's, the visitors should get an enjoyable game. Three enclosures have been erected, one for a dressing room for the players, and two for the caterer, Mr Douglas, who promises to look well after the wants of both players and spectators in their respective matters. There is also a tent for the convenience of scores and reporters, above which a large scoring board will be erected. A big attendance is looked for but the committee, with a due regard to financial considerations, are placing a stress on the northern team to abstract the view of any allegedly admirers of the game. Mr G. H. Clarke has the experience of the preparations, and it is to be hoped that his trouble will be rewarded by a large attendance of the public.

SUMMER 1903-4.

Tennis and Cricket.—Just arrived, direct from the manufacturers, a large assortment of Blazinger's & Wingo's Rackets, including the E.G.M. Special Pastime and Wingo Champion; also, Blazinger's 1902 Balls, Croquet sets. A good selection of Cricket Balls, Franchise and Match Balls, Nets, Cricket Stumps, Whistles and Detail Tobaccoist, with various toys. No.—J. Avery.

1903

The first event of the Recreation Ground calendar was a cricket match between a North Taranaki team and an English eleven. An unusual aspect of the game was that the Taranaki team were allowed to field 18 players. Considering that the pitch back then was smaller than it is now it would have been interesting to see the field placements. On seeing the advert for the game, a person wrote in the *Taranaki Herald*. “ I understand from advertisements that the game is to be played on the Recreation Ground. May I ask if the local team intend placing their “field” on the terraces that surround the pitch?” The Taranaki team still got a sound thrashing.

A monument to C. E. Wiggins was erected in the park, arranged and paid for by the Bank of New South Wales in New Plymouth where Wiggins had worked before serving in South Africa with the 3rd Contingent. The erection of the monument caused a stir in the town. Many people felt that the Recreation Ground was not an appropriate place to put the obelisk. It was placed on a mound south of the Boatshed Bridge, now known as Monument Hill. He died aged 27, from enteric (typhoid) fever at Germiston in South Africa on 13 July 1900.

With the establishment of the fish ponds the previous year it was rewarding for the Acclimatisation Society to release 500 trout reared in the Recreation Ground into the Waiwhakaiho River. Another 10,000 fry were put in the ponds in September.

The Sports Ground pitch was still not satisfactory for the local sports teams. Whenever it rained the ground became sodden and unplayable. The Board asked Percy Smith to produce a plan to deal with the drainage issue.

The efforts of the Recreation Grounds Board in endeavouring to preserve the rarer native flowering shrubs were highlighted by some fine specimens of New Zealand ribbonwood and koromiko in bloom. An Australian red gum tree also had a fine show of flowers.

There were donations of plants from Mr J Wheeler of Durham Road. A collection of South Sea Island seeds from Mr Gordon Cliff, and a valuable donation of seeds of a varied collection of flowering shrubs and plants collected en-route from Colombo to Vancouver from T. K. Skinner. Other donations included a peacock from Albert Bayly and two Russian geese from Mr Holden of Makino.

Summary of significant events

- First trout from Recreation Ground ponds released into local rivers.
- Board grant permission to build Wiggins memorial.
- The Board starts selling *Pinus insignis* trees to local contractors.



Views of the Recreation Ground. (*Auckland Weekly News* 26 February 1903)

Above: Band Rotunda and Bathing Shed.

Left: The Poet's Bridge with Mount Taranaki in the background.

Bottom: A view of the lower lake (Fountain Lake).



TH, JANUARY 2, 1903
CRICKET IN THE RECREATION
GROUND
LORD HAWKES XI V TARANAKI 18

LORD HAWKES'S TEAM IN
PLYMOUTH.

Having disposed of the Taranaki representative 18 at Hawera, Lord Hawke's team returned to New Plymouth on Wednesday night to play on 16 of North Taranaki. They were met at the station by the Reception Committee—Messrs Backerill, C. Bennett, Hancock, Key, and Paul—and drove to the Criterion Hotel, where the Mayor, Mr Backerill, kindly welcomed them.

To the intense disappointment of the whole town, and probably of the district, New Year's Day broke wet and stormy. Cricket in the morning was quite out of the question, and it seemed as if the public of New Plymouth would be deprived of the pleasure of seeing the long-expected visitors giving an exposition of the national game. However, towards noon the weather lifted and the showers of rain became less frequent and less violent. By one o'clock quite a number of people began to collect at the Recreation Grounds, which have never looked in better order than at present. The grass had been well mown, the wicket made as presentable as possible, and arrangements made for the convenience of the players and of the public, who had been expected in strong force. If the day had only been fine, it is quite certain that the Recreation Grounds would have seen such a crowd as has never collected there before. Even with all the attendant disadvantages in the way of bad weather, and a lot of uncertainty among the public as to whether the match would be commenced in the afternoon, just over 200 was taken in seats at the gates. With the number of people who preferred tickets purchased beforehand, the attendance must have been well on towards 300 people.

Early in the afternoon, Mr Warner, the captain of the visiting team, offered to commence play at 3.30, wet or fine. Fortunately it turned out fine, and as the afternoon wore on, the sun came out, making things quite pleasant. The ground, however, was slippery, and after a little the batsmen had almost an object to stand up. With masting, the pitch of course was not much affected, and the English batsmen were able to get a lot of work on the balls, though their breaks were not so phenomenal as on the first wicket at Hawera on Wednesday.

Frank Robertson, the captain of the North Taranaki team, won the toss and sent his side in. The two professional bowlers and Thompson opened the bowling, but with 5 wickets down for 20, the visitors' captain took off his bowling strength and tried a variety of the amateur members of the team. The last wicket fell with the score at 56, which had taken just two hours to compile. Lord Hawke's team then had about 20 minutes at the wickets, scores being drawn at six o'clock with one wicket down for 11.

The umpires were Messrs Medley (Lord Hawke's team) and Amberidge (North Taranaki). They allowed seven balls in a few overs and a premature boundary was called, which probably reduced the Taranaki total by a run, which, however, was not material. Messrs S. Hill (visitors) and Hardy (Taranaki) kept the scores, while Mr Hill, hon., attended to the scoring board. The board was rather small to be of much use to the public.

NORTH TARANAKI.

First Innings.

W. Perham, 6, 6, Hargreaves	0
E. Hodgson, 142, G. Thompson, 6, Hargreaves	7
L. Spencer, 1, G. Warner, 6, Hargreaves	1
F. H. Robertson, 4114111, 6, Thompson	14
A. S. Gardner, 43, 6, Hargreaves	2
C. Clegg, 2, 6, Thompson	0
A. S. Hazell, 6, 6, Thompson	0
F. G. Robertson, 11, G. Warner, 6, Hargreaves	1
W. Weston, 1, 6, Warner	1
A. Stables, 11, 6, Warner	1
E. Whittle, 24111, G. Warner, 6, Hargreaves	2
Moore, 4, G. Thompson, 6, Hargreaves	1
L. Cartier, 142424111, 6, Hargreaves	21
E. D. Lightfoot, 8114111, 6, Hargreaves	11
V. Elliott, 1, 6, Hargreaves	1
G. H. Clarke, 6, run out	0
W. Johnston, 1, 6, Warner	1
G. Strain, not out	0
Byes, 1	1
Leg Byes, 11	1
No Balls, 1	1
Total	56

Bowling analysis—Hargreaves, 6 overs, 2 maidens, 20 runs, 3 wickets; Thompson, 7 overs, 2 maidens, 11 runs, 2 wickets; Warner, 3 overs, 2 maidens, 1 run, 2 wickets; Spencer, 4 overs, 2 maidens, 1 run, 1 wicket; Dawson, 3 overs, 2 maidens, 10 runs, 3 wickets; Lightfoot, 3 overs, 0 maidens, 8 runs, 4 wickets; Robertson, 3 overs, 1 maiden, 20 runs, 2 wickets.

TH, JANUARY 3, 1903
CRICKET RESULT

The match between the teams was concluded in the Recreation Grounds after the Herald went to press on Friday. The Northern Taranaki team made 131 in their second innings.

The scores were:—
 Lord Hawke's Team.—First Innings, 820.
 Northern Taranaki.—First Innings, 48; second, 131. Total 217.
 Lord Hawke's team then won by an innings and 131 runs.

TH, JANUARY 9, 1903
TROUT READY FOR RELEASE

The rainbow fry that were liberated in ponds in the Recreation Grounds some months ago have grown rapidly, and are now big enough for liberation in the rivers. Next week, Mr D. McWilliam, the secretary of the Acclimatization Society, will make a start in distributing the fish, starting with Te Hara's stream.

TH, FEBRUARY 3, 1903
PARADISE DUCKS DONATED

Mr Harris Ford, hon. secretary of the Recreation Board, acknowledges donation of a pair of paradise ducks from Mr J. Taves, of Wanganui, and a donation off to from Miss D. Vetch.

TH, MARCH 3, 1903
PRESERVING NATIVE TREES

The efforts of the Recreation Grounds Board in endeavoring to preserve the rarer native flowering shrubs are being rewarded with gratifying success. Mr T. Ford, secretary of the Board, to day showed us some fine specimens of our Zealand ribbonwood and koromiko bushes. An Australian red gum tree has now a few shoots at Hawera also.

TH, MARCH 26, 1903
SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

OUR RECREATION GROUNDS.

To the Editor.

Sir.—On the 23rd March, 1902, you published my letter in the Herald giving a general description of these grounds. The gravitation water scheme and electric lighting are now likely to become an accomplished reality. I will confine myself to almost one particular part of these grounds, that is the gully extending from the bridge of fax near the bathing house to the ranscombe reservoir, from which a spur of land extends into these grounds, dividing the gully into a semi-circle or horse shoe shape at present almost entirely covered in nature's surface. This gully should be converted into two artificial lakes, divided by a dam about a chain below the point of the spur at a narrow neck in the gully, the other lake extending to the bridge of fax. In these two lakes and the large one in front of the band returns should be erected fountains of various designs. The two artificial lakes and fountains could be supplied by the gravitation water supply from the high land in the ranscombe reservoir at the head of the upper lake. The lakes when once filled would require only a small supply to keep them from becoming stagnant. The spur and slopes should be planted with native and flowering shrubs. Two large and powerful electric lamps should be erected one in front of the band returns and the other on the dam between the two artificial lakes to be lighted at night on occasions such as band concerts, etc. to throw a soft lustre of light transfiguring the lakes and sparkling fountains and surroundings into unsurpassed oriental grandeur. Let your modern picture to themselves a calm summer evening when a band concert was being held, taking a promenade around the slopes overlooking this picturesque scenic beauty. Nature is very beautiful, but when assisted by the handicraft of man, it gives refinement and enhanced attractiveness. I am aware your readers will say 'how is this to be accomplished?' Some was not built in a day, and this district is destined to become the home of people of wealth and leisure. The artist, architect, and poet could within these grounds select their shady trees and sheltered nooks with almost forest stillness. Again it matters not in which direction a person may choose to ride or drive in the surrounding country, there is one grand panoramic scene of rolling pastures and woodlands backed by range and mountain scenery and from points of advantage round the town an unbroken sea view may be obtained extending from north east to north and west. The whole district abounds in such a variety of scenery that it requires the refined poetic mind and vivid imagination of a Kipling or Assolun to catch them, and not the facile attempts of the untaught and uncultured brain of your hostile servants—I am, &c.

H. S.

TH, MARCH 26, 1903
REQUEST TO PROCEED WITH
WIGGINS MEMORIAL

Mr N. K. MacDiarmid, Esq, on behalf of the officers of the Bank of New South Wales, asked permission of the Recreation Grounds Board, to erect a stone in the grounds to the memory of the late C. F. Wiggins, a former officer of the local branch of the Bank, who left £1000 for South Africa on active service, but who unfortunately succumbed to fever at Germiston. The memorial will take the form of a stone column, from 10 to 12 feet in height. In accordance with Mr MacDiarmid's suggestion, a poll of the subscribers to the fund was taken upon the question of the site of the proposed memorial, resulting in 25 votes being cast for Seaver, where the parents of deceased Mrs. B. for the Recreation Grounds here, and 10 for other places, and 11 did not vote. The result of this voting was communicated to the parents of the deceased, who expressed their preference for the Recreation Grounds, as two memorials already exist in Seaver. Accordingly, Mr MacDiarmid has asked the Board's permission to proceed with the work.

TH, APRIL 21, 1903

AN APPEAL FOR THE RECREATION GROUNDS.

To the Editor.

Sir—I think it will be admitted by all that the Recreation Grounds never looked so well as they do at present. Improvements are being constantly made, and the wise policy of planting native trees and shrubs has been in operation for a number of years and has proved an unqualified success. The Recreation Grounds are known from one end of New Zealand to the other and attract visitors to the place, and they are a valuable asset to the town. The caretaker and his assistant are ably and judiciously underpaid, considering the special skill shown by them, and I venture to say that no one will accuse the Board of extravagance. The Board, as a whole, have rightly or wrongly looked upon themselves as bound to increase the natural beauties of the place, and have had regard to the intention of the Act of Parliament which created them, namely, "The Tararua Botanic Garden Act 1875." During the whole of the Board's existence they have had to struggle with financial difficulties, and there has never been a period when the individual members of the Board have not been liable to their bankers under a joint and several promissory note to secure an overdraft more or less large. The only certain income the Board receive is a largely unutilized contribution of £50 per annum from the Borough Council, which, when first allowed, was understood to be a penny in the £ on the rateable value of property in the Borough; yet, notwithstanding the fact that a penny in the £ now produces considerably more than twice the amount it used to do, the contribution has not been increased. Details of various proposals on an average less than £12 a year, and the Board have to trust to chance and the generosity of the public for the rest of the money necessary to keep up the grounds. All of the members of the Board are fairly busy people and they have always dipped their hands into their own pockets pretty freely whenever there has been a call, and old members of the Board, such as Mr T. K. Egan, have freely given handsets

of pounds worth of skilled professional labour. We none of us think that it will be for the advantage of the public that the grounds should be handed over to the control of the Borough Council, for the experience of Councils in money matters shows that, as a rule, honesty is often sacrificed when those who have charge of such things as public gardens are elected for other purposes and have no real love of the beautiful themselves. At one time there were 120 annual subscriptions of 10/- each whose subscription very materially helped the Board, but facts are cases or matters the total number of subscribers last year was only five. It is not fair to ask the members of the Board to be always contriving, and I therefore thank you

for the opportunity you have given me of stating that in my opinion, at least a hundred subscribers should send in their subscriptions voluntarily. Another £200 could be spent most usefully in maintaining and completing a system of pretty paths, and another £100 could be equally well spent in other ways. If, however, the public do not care to subscribe either by increased rates or by voluntary contribution, I for one, am beginning to feel that I should like to stop work and let others enjoy the pleasure of making bricks without straw, and no doubt there are other much more important members of the Board who think the same—I am, etc.,

CLEMENT W. GOVEY.

Chairman Recreation Grounds Board.
 P.S.—Subscriptions will be received by the secretary or any member of the Board and duly acknowledged.

TH, APRIL 23, 1903
WOOD CHOPPING COMPETITION

OKATO HIBERNIAN SPORTS.

THE CHAMPION CHOP

In connection with the above sports will be held in the

**Recreation Grounds,
 New Plymouth,**

**SATURDAY, 2nd MAY, 1903,
 at 2 p.m.**

Admission: One Shilling.

All the 1000 Tararua Axemen are competing.

Prizes:—First, £1; second, £1; third, £1.

J. J. CARPENTER,

1042 Hon. Sec.

TH, MAY 2, 1903
WOOD CHOPPING CONTEST
RESULTS

CORRECT WINNERS BY A MARGINE.

Owing to a dispute over the log chopping contest at the Okato Hibernian Sports, held on March 17, the matter was referred to the N.E. Axemen's Association who ruled that the competition be postponed. The Okato Committee decided to hold the contest in the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds, and the contest being off this afternoon in the presence of some 500 spectators. The winners

	Hours
Casey	25
Yobbs	25
White	29
Dobranski	30
Corbett	30
Brophy	31
Collins	32

Mr Harding started and stood; Messrs W. T. Jennings, B.H.M., and Whiting acted as judges; and Mr Langston, hon. sec., of the Okato sports, acted as timekeeper.

The result was—

Corbett, Casey, Brophy

Dobranski finished fourth, Collins and White retired, and Yobbs finished off when the third man got through his log.

The fight between Corbett and Casey was a fine one, the former winning by a few strokes. Corbett, a youth, was greatly discouraged when he finished and had to be down; Brophy, who was at Okato, just beat Dobranski for third place. Casey, the champion, dropped with a muscular stroke.

Casey's time was four hours.

The boys were jakes, etc. etc. in circumstances.

There was a little singing at the concert.

TH, MAY 6, 1903
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Board met on Monday night. Present: Messrs Govey (Chairman), Seaver, Brophy Smith, and Harris Ford (hon. sec.).

The Board decided to recommend the Governor to appoint Mr R. Cook a member of the Board, as Mr Cook desired to remain in New Plymouth.

It was resolved that the allocation of £10 offered by the Antislavery Society for the care of the fish fry in the grounds be paid direct to the Board, and be allocated as follows:—Overlander £100; and assistant caretaker £5.

The thanks of the Board were tendered to Mr Hobden, of Mahina, for his donation of two Easter geese.

The Carrington Road paddock will be offered to Mr Joe West for the sum of £1 a year, and payable half yearly in advance, and in the event of Mr West not taking up the lease it be offered to Messrs Hardy and Co. of the same rent.

The Board thanked Mr Govey for his offer of pasture and valuation but as the Board have no commission for leasing them they regretted they were unable to accept his offer.

The Takapa Football Club wrote asking for the sole use of the ground for the season. The Board could not accede to the request. Such application will be treated on its merits, and in priority.

The Board decided to endorse bye-law No. 2, which forbids paper and other litter and rubbish being strewn in the grounds.

Owing to the wet weather on Easter Monday the Board accepted £10 instead of £14 from the Star Club for the use of the ground.

The application of Mr N. K. MacDiarmid, manager of the Bank of New South Wales, for the erection of a monument in the grounds to the late Trooper Wiggins, was considered, and that the site for the monument be on the tongue of land near the Irving Island and the path leading to Mr King's.

It was decided to reserve the ground for holding a third fair and lawn entertainment on November 24th, and the ladies of the town will be invited to attend at a later date to meet and consult with the Board as to details.

The secretary was instructed to procure 20 yards of gravel for the paths.

Mr Felix Tancor of the Harbour Board staff, offered to give a tight rope performance in aid of the funds of the ground. The Board thanked him and hoped he would be able to give it on November 24th, King's Birth Day.

Mr R. C. Hughes was granted a further three months' leave of absence.

Accounts were passed.

TH, MAY 16, 1903

EMPIRE DAY

FANCY FOOTBALL MATCH.

Monday, 25th May, 1903.

IN THE Recreation Grounds.

STAR V. TUKAPA.

GRAND PROCESSION headed by the Garrison Band, leaves the Post Office at 1.30 p.m.

Match at 3 p.m.

Admission 4d.

L. HILL.

T. PETTY.

Hon. Secs.

1844

TH, MAY 19, 1903

Recreation Grounds.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.

Mr Harris Ford, hon. sec. to the Recreation Grounds Board, has received during the past few days annual subscriptions from the following: Mrs G. W. Garrett, Mrs Breckham, Mrs N. King, Messrs C. W. Garrett, T. Petty, F. Roberts, H. Weston, D. K. Morrison, A. E. Sykes, A. Standish, Moray and Son, J. Birch, G. Tuck, J. Army, J. H. Bentley, W. Currier, T. Avery, Sydney Ross, A. E. A. Clarke, N. King, J. H. Parker, W. Hughes, Holmstein Bros, J. Whitaker, and C. Kennell.

The annual subscription is 10s, and we shall be pleased to receive and acknowledge on behalf of the Board subscriptions from anyone whose convenience it will suit to have them with us.

TH, MAY 28, 1903

FLOODING IN RECREATION GROUND

In the Recreation Grounds the lakes are filled, and the lower lake was this morning within a few inches of the top of the embankment. The football ground was largely under water, and the flat by the dressing shed was covered by a flood of water making drains into the lower pond the drains from the upper lake being quite inadequate to carry off the overflow.

TH, JUNE 20, 1903

TROUT RELEASED FROM PONDS

On Friday Mr Hilliers, secretary of the Acclimatization Society liberated from the Recreation ponds into the Waiwakaitahi 200 rainbow trout, some being as much as 8 inches in length.

TH, JULY 13, 1903

PLANT DONATION

The secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board desires to acknowledge a donation of plants from Mr J. Wheeler, of Durham Road, and a collection of South Sea Island seeds from Mr Gordon Cole.

TH, AUGUST 21, 1903

PEACOCK DONATED

Mr Harris Ford, hon. secretary of the Recreation Grounds Board, acknowledges gift of a peacock from Mr Albert Bayly.

TH, AUGUST 26, 1903

Wiggins Memorial Stone Arrives

The many friends of the late C. H. Wiggins, who volunteered for service in South Africa with the Tabled Contingent, and died at Germiston, will be pleased to learn that the stone to be erected to his memory, by the officers of the Bank of New South Wales in New Zealand, has just been imported by Mr W. F. Brooking, to whom the work has been entrusted, and its erection will be proceeded with at once. The memorial is an obelisk of polished grey granite, and it is, by permission of the Board, to be placed in the Recreation Grounds.

TH, SEPTEMBER 5, 1903

RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Thursday night. Present: Messrs Garrett (chairman), Curdill, Newman, Harris Ford, and Percy Smith.

LEASE

Mr Joe West applied for lease of paddock he at present occupied for a term of 10 or 12 years, and if granted he would plough it up and lay it down in grass.

As the Board desired to obtain possession of the paddock they declined to extend term after March 31st next.

FENCE

The amount paid by the Acclimatization Society for fencing by in the ponds in the grounds will be equally divided between the custodian and his assistant, in accordance with the representation of the custodian.

THANKS.

A vote of thanks was tendered Mr A. Bayly for his donation of a peacock.

REAPPOINTMENT.

The Board will ask the Colonial Secretary to reappoint Mr H. Cook to the Board.

BUSSE.

The ladies' committee will be asked to meet members of the Board on September 5th for the purpose of arranging a bus on the King's Birthday, November 5th.

NIGHTS OF MEETING.

The Board in future will meet on the first Wednesday in each month.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Mr H. C. Hughes' leave of absence was extended for another three months.

GUERRIER.

Mr P. Smith was appointed overseer for the month.

ACCOUNTS.

Accounts, &c, were passed for payment.

PREVENTING DAMAGE.

The Sergeant of Police will be requested to see that constables are on duty in the grounds on Thursday next to prevent trespassers of the by-laws, especially as regards damage to terraces and banks round the sports ground.

The Board adjourned.

TH, SEPTEMBER 5, 1903

10,000 FRY RELEASED INTO PONDS

The Secretary of the Acclimatization Society liberated 10,000 rainbow fry, received from the Masterton hatcheries, in the Recreation Grounds ponds on Friday.

TH, SEPTEMBER 7, 1903

SPORTS GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

The Recreation Grounds Board have decided that Messrs P. Smith and Madden be asked to report to the Board on the best means of draining and improving the Sparta Oval.

TH, SEPTEMBER 2, 1903

TARANAKI-AUCKLAND

VICTORY FOR TARANAKI.

The annual match between the two teams was played in the Recreation Grounds on Tuesday afternoon before some 4000 spectators. All parts of the district were represented in the attendance, the special train from Hawera bringing in a large number. The "gate" was a record, a sum of £115 15s 6d being taken, the best for ever being £100.

The game was fast and well fought out, Taranaki winning by 6 points (penalty goal and try) to 3 points (penalty goal).

TH, OCTOBER 19, 1903

FUNDRAISING

GRAND Floral Fete.

RECREATION GROUNDS.

MONDAY, NOV. 9th, 1903.

(KING'S BIRTHDAY).

FLORAL DISPLAYS.

Prizes for Decorated Vehicles of all descriptions, from a waggon to a pertubolator.

Decorated Bicycles and Tricycles (Children).

Floral Costumes (Boy or Girl) and for groups.

School Competition, Cakes & Bread Show, School Drills, Bicycle Gymnasia,

Musical Bicycle Ride,

Wahi Goldmining Co., Ltd. (paying dividends to scrip holders),

Foster Parade, Decorated Gondolas (on the lake), Christy Minstrel Mandolin Band, and many other novel attractions.

President of Ladies Committee,

Mrs E. COCKE.

Hon. Secretary, Miss AHERN.

**TH, OCTOBER 22, 1903
RECREATION GROUND**

The Recreation Grounds are looking well under the influence of the genial spring weather now prevailing. The Board has now in hand several improvements, including a path from the head of the upper lakelet to the southern boundary. This path leads the visitor through some pretty sylvan scenery. One of the white swans died the other day. The bird appeared to be ailing for some time. The other swans had an aversion to this bird and frequently attacked it. The swan was seen to now sitting on an inlet in the lakelet, and she keeps up a brisk attack on any of the other birds that dare to come near her.

The secretary of the Acclimatization Society received by the mail train last night 2000 rainbow trout and 2000 brown trout, which were distributed in the ponds at the Recreation Ground this morning. We are pleased to say the young fry liberated a month ago are doing splendidly.

**TH, OCTOBER 27, 1903
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

The Board met on Friday. Present—The Chairman, Messrs Corbitt, New man, and Ford (hon. secy.). Mr Perry Smith sent an apology for absence. Mr H. M. Hurdston, hon. secretary of the Swimming Club, wrote asking permission for members of the club to swim in the upper lakelet between the hours of 3 and 4 p.m.

The Board decided to accede to the request, except on Thursdays and Sundays, provided proper costumes worn and there is no playing going on the lanka.

Mr F. T. Ballington, secretary of the Taranaki Troopers Memorial Committee, wrote asking for the use of the Recreation Grounds on Boxing night for the purpose of holding a fireworks display in aid of the fund.

The Board, after consideration, agreed it was unable to accede to this request, as the Board several months ago decided to have a fireworks display on Boxing night, and had sent to England for a supply of fireworks for the occasion.

The Chairman was authorized to call upon the Board from time to time for any suggestions regarding them.

The secretary was requested to write to the Railway Department about the laying trains, and also to the local boards in connection with playing at the lake on November 15th.

Mr Smith was appointed treasurer for the coming month.

The Board decided to delay doing anything about the drainage of the sports ground pending the report from Messrs Percy Smith and Woodhouse on the matter.

Accounts were passed for 1903 and

**TH, NOVEMBER 5, 1903
PLANT DONATION**

Mr Harris Ford, hon. secy. of the Recreation Grounds Board has received from Mr T. E. Skinner a valuable donation of a varied collection of seeds of flowering plants and shrubs collected on a visit from Colorado to Vancouver.

**TH, DECEMBER 17, 1903
FUNDRAISING**

**A GRAND
FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

WILL BE GIVEN AT THE
RECREATION GROUNDS

**ON
BOXING NIGHT,**

31st December next,

In aid of the South African Fallen Troopers Public Memorial to be erected on Marsland Hill.

Admission: Adults, One Shilling;
Children, half price.

R. DOUGILL,

Chairman of Committee.

**TH, DECEMBER 17, 1903
SPORTS GROUND PROPOSAL**

SCHEDULE FOR IMPROVEMENT

**A BIG UP-TO-DATE SPORTS
GROUND**

For a long time past it has been palpable that, despite its beautiful natural surroundings, the sports ground in the lake is totally inadequate for the requirements of a large centre like New Plymouth, besides which, through defective drainage, it is always soft, being unsuitable for either good football or cricket. The ground is "made"—the original site was a swamp—and, naturally, it has been difficult to devise a thoroughly effective system of drainage. At present the water is carried off by means of pipes, the main one emptying itself after it carries the water under the head of the lower lake. The Board is just now, unfortunately to some better drainage, and Mr S. Percy Smith, whose interest in the Recreation Ground is well known, has kindly consented to place his professional services at the disposal of his brother members of the Board, and devise some scheme which it is hoped will be an improvement on the present one. The details of that scheme are not now available. Knowing that the question of a better sports ground is one that has at intervals caused some discussion, and remembering that Mr T. E. Skinner, whose connection with the Recreation Grounds Board has been long and pre-eminently, had some three years ago been asked to prepare a plan for improvements, a representative of the Herald waited on him the other day, and during the course of a chat elicited some particulars of the scheme which he had suggested, but which the Board, for various reasons, did not see its way to adopt at that juncture. Is the time ripe now for action? A question that should receive consideration, for Mr Skinner's plan includes the purchase of some land, and, whether there is or is not a land boom which will collapse (pessimists say there is) there is no disguising the fact that values are

going up, and that sections everywhere are higher in price than they were three years ago. Mr Skinner's estimate of the proposed work then was £2000; it may possibly cost a little more now. "The longer the work is delayed," he remarked yesterday, "the more it will cost when the Board decides, if it does, to carry it out." And that it should be carried out Mr Skinner has not the slightest doubt. He is a believer in centralization. This is the metropolis of Taranaki, and we should have sports grounds which would be recognized as metropolitan per excellence, and on which, naturally, would be held cricket and football matches of importance as well as other athletic sports. The great tendency in other countries is towards centralization; the smaller towns have their own conveniences, but the chief cities are the centres of attraction. Mr Skinner thinks New Plymouth has, if the people are far-seeing, great possibilities in this direction. But to return to his scheme it is a large one, the amount of money it would involve is considerable, and in the eyes of several the carrying of it out would mean the divestiture of some of the natural beauties of the Recreation Ground—beauties which are so sacred to the average New Plymouthian as Marcia is to the followers of the Prophet. But would the destruction of natural beauty be so great after all? And would not the benefit (materially) and attractiveness of a fine sports ground more than compensate for the loss? Besides, is there not so much natural beauty there now that a little loss would not be missed; and is there not still plenty of scope for further beautification? As a matter of fact, is not a fine, extensive bright green sward a thing of beauty? All these points should be considered by those who, never looking ahead, profess to believe that the sports ground is fully adapted to present-day requirements, and who, unlike the late Mr George Grey, take no number of stock in the "unborn millions." Cricketers will tell you that the ground is no good for the King of Sports, and footballers will be equally emphatic in asserting that it is "no class" as a place for the winter game. Certainly for the spectator it has advantages: that few grounds possess, but the spectator is only, after all, "by the wheel of the coach. What has occurred? The cricketers have shifted their tents to other places, which, while not perfect, are better than the Recreation Grounds, and the spectator who joined the club from the time we will have to follow the cricketers if he desires to keep up with the best points of the game. Mr Skinner's idea is to have a sports ground even area. In extent, as compared with some two and a half acres, which is about the size of the present ground. To get this area, the hill on the right hand side of the Lizard street entrance gate would have to be cut away, a

portion of the lower lake which is, and three sections behind Mr Coler's property acquired, as well as that part of Fills street which runs into Lindet street. The hill is a fair sign of varying, but it is too thickly wooded to be a perfect one, and it certainly cannot be called a beauty spot—as beauty spots go in the Dominion grounds. The Lindet street entrance would have to be closed, and in Mr Skinner's plan it is proposed to have erected near this spot a gravel stand. The sections belonging to Mr Coler could be used for tennis and croquet grounds, horse paddock, stable, etc. The cricket pitch would be in the centre of the ground (which would be oval in shape), and there would be a football ground on either side of it. By the way, the present ground would not be interfered with until the new one was available, when it would be worked into the general scheme. Some persons naturally object to the area of the lower lake being marlised, but, if thought advisable, the path that divides it from that "where the lilacs grow" could be demolished, and the two would make a lake as large, if not larger, than the one it is proposed to partially fill in. If this were done, the present outflow from the upper lake would have to be directed, and this would be done by means of a tunnel, which over the head of the lower lake would give a waterfall, and then empty at a point over what is now known as "the" waterfall. The enlarged ground would also necessitate the construction of some terraces behind the dressing shed, and in order to get the oval shape, the lower terraces developing the present sports ground would require to be run on the high from the western end, whilst at the eastern side the present slope where the law masts are and the footpath above would have to be taken in, and a new path formed. The wide path running past the western access to the main terraces would be filled in, and the spot made handy for a pavilion. Mr Skinner informs us that all the paths are on the same level, so that the work of connecting the terraces on either side of the wide path just mentioned would offer no engineering difficulties. As we said before, it would be necessary for the successful carrying out of the plan that the Board should acquire that portion of Fills street running from Lindet street along the northern end of the ground, and land would have to be purchased from adjacent property owners in order to allow of a deviation of the street. Whilst on the subject of Fills street, we may point out that if the Board does not secure Mr Coler's sections, in course of time the Council might be asked to purchase the street through to the Carrington Road, in which event there would be reason to say over "beauty spots bartered," as the route of the road would be from near the Lindet street entrance right through the hill, across the stream above the water-

fall, and out well on the Recreation Grounds side of the Carrington Road stream. If the Board held the sections there would never be any need for this road to be opened up. The new ground would give a cycling track nearly half a mile round, and the cricket ground, being on the highest point, the drainage would flow away from it in every direction. To get thoroughly effective drainage, the plan provides for a layer of cinders (cinders are very cheap) all over the ground, and this would be covered by a top dressing of black soil. As to the destruction of trees, Mr Skinner assures us that there need be no interference on that score, the work would be carried out at the proper season, and the trees, with the exception, perhaps, of some very straggling pine insignnia, removed to more suitable spots, of which there are many. As the carrying out of the scheme would mean the closing of the Lindet street entrance, it is proposed that use should be made in Gilbert street, near Mr Coler's residence. The Fills street and Carrington Road ones would be still available. There can be no doubt that if the scheme were adopted we would have a sports ground worthy of the growing importance of the place. The cost is a question which acts as a stimulant, but when it is remembered that the swamp which is the site of the present ground was sold at a cost of £1000 when the town was smaller and poorer than it is at present, the matter of raising £2500 should not prove an insurmountable "bar." And while referring to the present ground we cannot refrain from mentioning the debt of gratitude townsmen owe to Mr W. H. Skinner (the secretary of the old sports ground committee) and others (including Mr J. W. Lightfoot and the late Mr W. Parker) for the manner in which they tackled an up hill task and stuck gamely to it until it reached a successful culmination. The present plan, if proved acceptable, might be carried out in a similar manner, if some of our energetic young men—and there are plenty of them—would only come forward and put their shoulders to the wheel. Mr F. K. Skinner, we may say in closing, has thoroughly thought out this question of a sports ground; he has to a large degree the beautiful added the experience, skill, and care of the professional engineer, and his opinion should receive full consideration.

Taranaki Herald, 21 Dec 1903 Recreation Ground Board Meeting

The Board met on Friday night, December 19, Messrs Goveat (chairman), Percy Smith, Collier, Newman, and Ford.

Mr R. H. Smith, M.P.E., wrote offering on behalf of Mr J. Duffie, M.P.E., to supply the Board with another white man in place of the one that died.

The Board thanked the gentleman for the offer, but could not see its way to accept it as the killing of its only white man the grounds was too expensive.

The Board expressed dissatisfaction at the non-payment of the modified charge of £100 for the last representative football match, especially as the usual percentage would have been largely in excess of the charge made.

The Carrington Board was granted the use of the grounds on Christmas afternoon.

Messrs Skene and Harte, the caretakers of the grounds, were each granted a bonus of £5.

Messrs Bellinger, Tiesh, and Carter, representing the Borough Council, waited on the Board with reference to the representation of the Council on the Board.

It was resolved that if the Council appointed three of their number to sit and confer with members of the Board, the Board will recognize them as having equal powers with themselves, notwithstanding that the Act does not provide for more than seven members on the Board.

The Board considered Messrs P. Smith and Skidder's proposal to better drain and improve the sports grounds, and it was decided to ask them to prepare the necessary specifications.

The proposals consist of ploughing and repairing the ground, and putting in 2½ inch drain pipes.

The work will be put in hand as soon as possible, and the football clubs will be notified that the ground will be closed for playing during the whole of next season.

Messrs Goveat, Smith, and Newman were appointed a committee to see the work carried out.

Mr R. C. Hughes was granted leave of absence for another three months.

Mr Newman was appointed overseer for the month.

Mr Skidder was instructed to see about the painting of the bridges, etc.

The Board adjourned.

TH, DECEMBER 21, 1903 DRAINING SPORTS GROUND

The Recreation Grounds Board on Friday evening decided upon the following course of action, having considered alternative schemes submitted by Messrs Percy Smith and Skidder for improvements to the sports ground:—That specifications be prepared for thoroughly draining the whole sports ground with 2½ inch pipes, ploughing the surface two furrows deep, and re-seeding with the best grasses procurable; that the work be put in hand as speedily as possible, and that the football clubs be at once notified of the closing of the grounds during the whole of next season. Messrs Goveat, Percy Smith, and Newman were appointed a committee to supervise the work.

TH, DECEMBER 21, 1903
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The Recreation Grounds Board is considering the advisableness of draining the swamp in the long gully leading to the racecourse. This is a necessary work, and if it is carried out, and the gully nicely planted, the attractiveness of the reserve will be greatly enhanced.

Mr T. K. Skinner's scheme for improving the sports grounds was discussed informally at the Recreation Grounds Board meeting on Friday night. The majority of members were averse to the scheme, holding that the reserve should be kept for purely recreation purposes, and not turned into a large sports ground.

The Recreation Grounds Board decided on Friday night, that it regretted the peacock could not be released from the enclosure where it was confined owing to the bird being without a mate. Will any owner of these birds supply the Board with a peacock?



A view of the Wiggins memorial looking south.
(*Auckland Weekly News*, February 4, 1904)



The Hatchery Lawn when it was a trout rearing farm. A gentleman appears to be looking at one of the fish ponds. (private collection, Alan Metcalfe)

1904

For many years the Recreation Ground Board suffered from a lack of funds and sometimes found themselves in desperate financial situations. They would approach the Borough Council for a subsidy and received varying responses. The Board had on occasions threatened to hand over the grounds to the council if they did not get a subsidy (which they could have done). This threat was always a bluff. Eventually the council agreed to an increase in the subsidy if they could have representation on the Board. This was agreed. Richard Cock (Mayor), Collis and Carter were the three selected to sit on the Board. Cock had been a past trustee of the ground for some years. The subsidy was raised to £100.

Harris Ford resigned as secretary of the Board having served twenty-three years in the position, he was replaced by E. H. Tribe.

One unusual occurrence was the release of a pair of opossums into the Recreation Ground, they were obviously unaware of the problems the little critters would pose. Back then they were introduced because of the value of their pelt.

The first interprovincial soccer match was played in the Recreation Ground against a team from Auckland. The local team was expected to lose badly as it was a fledgling team up against a well-established one. The Auckland team had agreed to come to town to help promote the game. The pitch in the Recreation Ground was in a sorry state, very heavy, carrying a lot of water and stifled the passing game of the visitors. A game of hit and chase by the Taranaki team resulted in an unlikely win to the home side. A second game was organised to be played a few days later but the venue was changed due to the poor condition of the pitch.

The big sporting event of the year was the rugby match between Taranaki and Britain which drew an estimated crowd of 9000 people. The game finished in a draw.

Lots of trout fry were lost over the summer months. A leak was discovered between a rearing pond and the lily pond allowing fry to escape and eels to enter. Other fish died due to the high temperature of the water because the ponds were small and shallow.

A disturbing event occurred in the grounds, that of an illegal operation. A young lady had got into trouble and her boyfriend solicited the help of an herbalist from Opunake to come to New Plymouth to terminate the pregnancy, this was attempted at night in the Band Rotunda. Unfortunately, the operation did not go well and the young lady had to go to hospital. The gentleman from Opunake was sentenced to five years imprisonment for his actions.

In an article from the *Taranaki Herald* 21st December there is a mention of a glowworm cave. The small cave was in the hillside close to where the Morten Bay Fig now stands. The cave was destroyed in the 1950's when a tree fell.

Fundraising suffered this year because the Board decided not to hold a floral fete. This was to avoid interference with the New Plymouth Exhibition and Christmas carnival.

Plant donations included several roots of purple flowered water lily from Mrs Wilkie and native shrubs from Messrs T. McKenzie and J. Whitehead, of Tikorangi. Also gifted were two opossums from Mr Moynihan and a pea hen from Mr Carrick.

Summary of significant events

- Borough councillors selected to sit on Recreation Ground Board.
- E H Tribe appointed Secretary and Treasurer of Recreation Grounds Board.
- First Board meeting Borough Councillors attended.
- First provincial soccer match in Taranaki - played at the Recreation Ground.

TH, JANUARY 5, 1904
OPPOSITION TO SPORTS GROUND
EXPANSION

To the Editors.

Mr.—Your readers must generally have been impressed with the scheme for extending the sports ground in the Recreation Grounds—as explained by Mr. T. K. Skinner to your reporter. While acknowledging the good motives actuated by him for so many years as a member of the Board, as one of the public interested in the maintenance of these beautiful grounds, will you allow me to state my protest against any extension of the area of land and water except for which they are so voted. Rather, Sir, extend the area than have it reduced. At present they are as nearly perfect as it is possible to get them, and there can be no reason why their beauty should be marred, and the pleasure of young and adult loving sportsmen should be sacrificed to the pleasure for increased recreation by the so-called lovers of sport. As it is, the handling of the work that congregates in the winter months to watch the football matches seems almost a disastress. The desire for increased recreation is legitimate on the part of sportsmen, and would be reasonable so far as the Recreation Ground is concerned if there were no other place that could be utilized for this purpose. But this is not so, as most of them we have the new Western Park to be put in order and made beautiful. In this Park is an area of about eight acres, almost square and perfectly level, that would make an ideal cricket ground, merely requiring grassing out and shelter belts planting, which could be done at a very low cost. Then, again, there is the reserve for purposes of recreation in that portion of the town known as the recreation—an area of some 20 acres, now only reserved during the whole year,—with the exception of the four racing days—by daily cows. What better grounds could possibly be required than this, being essentially level and well sheltered on the west by the Recreation Grounds, and also within easy distance of the centre of the town? It is unreasonable that this beautiful spot should be locked up for the whole year merely that the sport of Kings—and spicers—should be indulged in on four days of that year. If the Turf and Jockey Club have a large interest in the ground, as undoubtedly they have, there is no reason why they, as members of the community, should not—individually they would assist in making this a sports ground second to none in the colony. A hanked course would be as useful for horse racing as for cycling or motor car racing. Stands to be used by spectators could be made movable and on rare days taken down. If necessary, all these little difficulties could be easily overcome and the public made considerably. The proposal of Mr Skinner is an excellent one, and one that in a few years would be

found inefficient for the enjoyment of this sporting town, so that it would be better to start with the larger but much less expensive scheme suggested above, and thus leave the beauty open for recreation to the young in the better field and young in the winter past, the street markets, and the children, and to those lovers of nature who, unable to travel, find their health and love lodged in their delight at the view of a few minutes' walk. The West Enders have started work in a handsome manner with regard to their Park. It is for the East Enders to hand together in the library, and I would suggest that a meeting be called for this purpose, and then get things moving before the winter is on us.—I am, Sir,
 AN EAST ENDER.

TH, JANUARY 11, 1904

Tenders.

TENDERS WILL BE RECEIVED for the fitting and handling the Sports Ground in the Recreation Grounds up to 4 o'clock on **MONDAY, the 22nd inst.**
 Lowest or only tender not necessarily accepted.
 For full particulars apply to
STANFORD & PALMER,
 Surveyors and Engineers.

TH, JANUARY 22, 1904
TROUT FRY DYING DUE TO HEAT

The continued hot, dry weather is having a disastrous effect on the young trout in the nursery ponds in the Recreation Grounds. These ponds are necessarily small and somewhat shallow, and the water has become so heated that a large number of the young fish have been killed. This morning Mr Kijssomata, the caretaker of the grounds, took over 200 dead young rainbow trout from the ponds. These fish, which looked fine and healthy, averaging about 2 to 4 inches, were put in the ponds on fry last September.

TH, JANUARY 22, 1904

Australasian Students' Christian Union.

FOURTH SUMMER CONFERENCE PUBLIC INVITATION.
 Delegates and representatives of the Australasian Students' Christian Union, a branch of the World's Christian Federation, are now holding their fourth Summer School or Conference in New Plymouth. The majority of those who are attending the Conference arrived on Wednesday night, and on Thursday afternoon they were joyfully received at a Garden Party in the Recreation Grounds. The weather, though a little hot, was all that could be desired for the occasion, which was held at the Band Rotunda near the upper lake.
 The Mayor, Mr H. Cook, presided, and with him on the same rotunda were: Rev. F. G. Brown, representing the Council of Churches in the absence of Rev. S. Osborne, the President; and Messrs Allanworth (Chairman), Williamson (Secretary), Macdonald (Organist), High School (Harmonist), and Tuck, Carter, and Wood (Harpists). The visitors were represented by: Rev. Chapman, and Messrs George and Nicholson.

TH, FEBRUARY 8, 1904

THE GRAND
CARNIVAL

IN THE
RECREATION GROUNDS.

Wednesday Night, Feb. 10.

VENETIAN SCENE ON THE LAKE

CORNWALL'S ESTUVEANTINA BAND,

GARRISON BAND,

Refreshments, etc., etc.

Concert in Band Rotunda.

CHAMPIONSHIP FELLOWSHIP FOR SILVER MEDAL.

Admission—One Shilling.

TH, FEBRUARY 15, 1904
PLANT DONATION

Mr Harris Ford (secretary to the Recreation Grounds Board) desires to acknowledge a donation from Mrs Wilkie of several roots of the purple flower water lily.

TH, APRIL 25, 1904
REVIEW OF FISH PONDS

The balance of the 1902 rainbow trout left in the ponds were liberated in different parts of the Waiwakaiho river, some of the fish being as much as 12 inches in length; and after the old ponds had been cleaned out a fresh consignment of 25,000 rainbow trout and 2000 brown trout fry were received from the Masterton fish hatcheries and placed in the ponds, and some 7000 of the rainbows have already been liberated in the Waiwakaiho river at and near the Junction Road bridge, and at different places some two or three miles up the Kaituma stream, a tributary of the Waiwakaiho. The balance will be placed in the lower parts of the river and the brown trout in the Okuru and Timaru streams. A good many young fry escaped into the weallake, known as the "Fly Pond," and it was discovered that a leak had taken place in the walls of one of the ponds allowing weal to enter freely. It will therefore be necessary to concrete the sides and bottoms of the ponds to get better results.

TH, MAY 5, 1904
BOROUGH COUNCILORS TO SIT ON
RECREATION GROUND BOARD

His Worship the Mayor and Councillors Collins and Carter were appointed to represent the Council on the Recreation Grounds Board.

TH, MAY 17, 1904
INCREASE IN COUNCIL SUBSIDY

Recreation ground subsidy, £100, was passed, subject to balance-sheet of the Recreation Board being submitted to the Council and published in the local papers.

TH, MAY 24, 1904
RECREATION GROUND ACCOUNTS
1903

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
for the year 1903 of the Board of Trustees of the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds.

REVENUE.		£	s.	d.
Subsidy, New Plymouth Borough Council	...	75	0	0
Annual Tickets, 11 at 10s.	...	10	10	0
Donations	...	7	0	0
Sale of Native Trees and Shrubs, &c.	...	11	17	6
Boats (including steady crew)	...	28	15	0
Cricket Club, Football Clubs, Sports Committee, &c.	...	18	1	1
Acclimatisation Society for Fish Culture	...	10	0	0
November Fete (per Miss Ains)	...	122	0	3
Contribution Box	...	5	11	11
		233	4	3

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Dr. Balance at Jan. 1, 1903, as per Bank Book	...	64	2	3
Labour—Staff, £150, extra, £22 10s., on account Acclimatisation Society, £15	...	187	12	0
Carriage	...	1	2	0
Tools and Material	...	8	3	0
Gravel	...	4	0	0
Drain Pipes	...	8	12	4
Rent	...	0	10	0
Food for Birds	...	12	5	7
Bank Charges	...	8	8	0
Accident Premium	...	0	17	7
Fete Expenses, Tests, and Advertising	...	18	0	0
Cr. Balance at Dec. 31, 1903—Bank, £4 10s. 1d. Cash, £15 14s. 1d.	...	21	3	3
		233	4	3

HARRIS FORD,
Hon. Sec.

TH, MAY 31, 1904
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met in Mr F. P. Corhill's office at 7.30 on Monday night. Present—Messrs Corhill (chairman), Newman, Ford, and Cockhill. An apology for absence was received from Mr S. Percy Smith.

RESIGNATION.

Mr Harris Ford tendered his resignation as hon. secretary, as he had for some time past found it impossible to devote the necessary time to the work. In accepting the resignation the Board recorded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Ford for his services during the long period of years he held the position.

MEMBER'S TEST MATCHES.

The Secretary of the No. 2 Amateurs' Association wrote asking if the Board would grant the use of the grounds for the Association's test matches on a Thursday in the month of August. The Board decided to grant the use of the grounds on any Thursday in August on the usual terms.

QUESTION OF CHARGING.

A letter was received from Mr W. C. Kensington, commissioned surveyor for Crown colonies, complaining that on April 27th (7 28th) gate money was demanded from honorary settlers and the settlers from E.M.S. Psycho for entering the grounds. The Board having enquired fully into the matter, it was resolved that Mr W. C. Kensington be informed that on the date in question the Takapa Football Club was authorised by the Board to make the usual charge at the gates for admittance during the match, which was being played, but that instructions were given by the club to its gatekeeper that notices and notices were to pass free, and the Board is satisfied that these instructions were carried out.

PRIVATE ENTRANCE.

The secretary reported that Mr F. Roberts, owner of nos. 1023, adjoining on the grounds, had agreed to pay 10s per annum to maintain a private entrance from his property to the grounds.

NATIVE SHRUBS.

An application from the warden of the Old People's Home for a supply of native shrubs was left in the chairman's hands.

THAMES.

A donation of £2 2s from the volunteers, who recently camped in the grounds, was received with thanks.

Mr J. Sanderson, architect, was thanked for gratuitously arranging and supervising the painting contract.

FINE FINDS.

The Taranaki Acclimatisation Society forwarded a sum of £10 for the services rendered by the Board's staff in feeding and otherwise attending to the fish.

PAYMENTS.

The Board decided that in future when leave was given to play odd matches in the grounds that payment be made in advance, owing to difficulty being experienced in getting payment after such events.

CARRINGTON ROAD FRONTAGE.

It was decided to do some planting during the coming winter on the frontage land on the Carrington Road with the object of forming a playground or lawn in the paddock usually occupied by Mr West.

NEW SECRETARY.

The Board appointed Mr Tribe secretary and treasurer at a remuneration to be arranged, the appointment to be terminable by one month's notice on either side.

BOROUGH IMPROVEMENTS.

It was resolved that upon receipt of a notice from the Borough Council with the names of the gentlemen appointed to represent the Council on this Board, a meeting be convened for the purpose of fixing a day for the monthly meeting and ascertaining as to work to be carried out in the grounds.

Accounts £4 14/11, were passed for payment.

TH, JULY 1, 1904
PROPOSED SPORTS GROUND SCHEME

The projected improvements to the sports ground in the Recreation Grounds have been postponed until after the conclusion of the Christmas Carnival. In the meantime various suggestions are made as to the best means of making the arena more suitable than at present. The drainage system and land drainage rendering it useless except after a spell of fine weather. One of the best schemes is that of Mr W. A. Collins, one of the Borough Council's representatives on the Board. His proposal provides for enlarging and raising the space devoted to athletics, and necessitates cutting back some twenty feet along the eastern side of the ground and perhaps a hundred and fifty feet into the hill whose top is now increased for the accommodation of spectators. The soil would be used in raising the ground, and might bring it to about six feet above the present level. Terrace to accommodate over a thousand spectators could be made on the top face of the hill. A concrete retaining wall would have to be erected at the western boundary of the ground, this being situated at a level for a grandstand. Mr Collins points out that the new features will receive greater protection from westerly winds than at present the case, and will have no greater disadvantage in the matter of westerly wind, which sometimes makes this valuable ground unpleasant and unusable. The drainage system and pavings could be carried on that portion of the ground now occupied by the big cabbage-tree. The scheme seems practicable, and has much to recommend it. One thing is certain, that if the ground is ever to receive a fair amount of sports it must be made a sportsground worthy of the name. No less certain is the knowledge that the Recreation Ground is the regular place of resort, and by far the most convenient, and that what is required is one good ground instead of three half-starved places for outdoor games, and in this latter respect matters are looking just now. The opinion of Messrs has been considered, too. Mr Collins, putting the valuation of the borough at £30,000, states that a rate of a penny in the £ would produce about £3000. He suggests that the Borough Council should obtain control of this portion of the recreation ground value a loan of £3000 for improvement, and instead of subsidising the Board at the rate of £100 annually as at present, spread the money and keep itself out of a sinking fund provided by the imposition of a penny rate. The scheme is well thought of by Mr Collins' colleagues, and should at least provide a healthy discussion on a matter that will be more the worse for a little ventilation.

TH, JULY 1, 1904
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

A meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday night. Present: Messrs. George Gilmartin, W. L. Newman, F. J. Farrell, and Counsellors W. A. Collins and C. Carter.

The Tararaki Football Union writing asking the Board to make some reduction from the usual charge for use of the ground for the Tararaki British and Tararaki-Wairarapa matches owing to the exceptionally heavy expenses they were put to. It was resolved, that the action of the chairman in foregoing the usual 25 per cent. of gate money in the cases of the Tararaki-Buller and Tararaki-Wairarapa football matches, and accepting £25 for the two matches, be approved.

It was resolved, that the secretary obtain the cost of putting down concrete platforms for the gas carriages.

It was decided, that the question of holding a fair on November 7th in aid of the funds of the Board be deferred until next meeting.

The question of enlarging and draining the sports ground was outlined by Mr Collins, but no action could be taken at the present time for various reasons. The matter will probably be brought forward later on.

It was resolved, that the Board clean the grounds on Thursday, July 7th, to see what improvements can be effected.

Mr R. C. Hughes, a member of the Board, was granted leave of absence for three months.

It was resolved, that the annual year of the Board close on March 31st in each year, instead of December 31st.

Mr T. D. Kelong was appointed auditor to the Board.

It was resolved, that in future the regular meetings of the Board be held on the first Wednesday in each month at 7.30 p.m.

Several small accounts were passed for payment, and the meeting concluded.

TH, JULY 9, 1904
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The Recreation Grounds Board made a general inspection of the grounds on Thursday last. Inspections were given for a number of improvements. Several old trees on the south-west side of the sports grounds are to be cut down, as they obstruct the view, a hospital is to be erected at the Landerstreet main gate, a small hospital placed on the corner of the bridge over the lake, concrete gas platforms for gas carriages are to be put down on the hill, and a concrete culvert leading to the lower lake will be made. As soon as the new fish ponds are completed, the fall is to be closed up, planted, and footpaths properly formed. The members expressed their gratification on visiting the newly formed footpaths, at the way in which they had been completed, and the wonderful growth of the new trees.

TH, JULY 9, 1904
PEA-HEN WANTED

The Recreation Grounds Board wish to obtain a peahen as a mate for the bird at present in the grounds.

TH, JULY 11, 1904
APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

Sir,—The Board has been such a cordy supporter of the Recreation Grounds that I do not attempt to require realisation of your valuable space. The members of the Board, including the Borough representatives, spent the whole of Thursday afternoon inspecting the grounds, and found that there were many things to be attended to, all costing money, without peaking on the income available to the sports ground. The Board has for a long time been determined to make the sports ground a satisfactory job, and that for the Christmas Carnival would before this have started on plans approved by Messrs. Blackie and Paterson and Mr Percy Smith, all of which gentlemen have given us much valuable advice, and we are now considering a scheme proposed by Mr Collins when we have heard what the footballers and others interested in sports have to say. There is, I am perfectly well aware, an entirely erroneous idea that the Board are indifferent to the views of those who advocate an up-to-date sports ground, and this idea has been spread abroad, with, I am afraid, in some cases, interested motives. It must be obvious that the Board would welcome any plan that would make the grounds useful and money-producing, provided the national authorities are not opposed, and we have much to learn from Mr Collins' action. In the meantime the Board is cramped for want of funds in carrying on the ordinary work of keeping up and improving the grounds, and it is with this idea that I make an appeal for annual subscriptions. At one time we had 120 annual subscribers at the club, but it is long since we have counted that number, and another effort is being made. If there are any persons who are doubtful, I would ask them to inspect the new work done at the bath at the groundhouse and in the garden leading up to the restaurant. I think to be a fair judge of work relating to laying out of parks, etc., and I am without hesitation that the work done is simply marvellous considering that we employ only two regular men and pay them wages generally inadequate having regard to the skill and conscientious attention displayed. People seem to forget that the work continues every year, but almost every new improvement leads to others, and our standard is now so much higher than it was say even five years ago. Those who stay in New Plymouth do not half realize what such grounds are possible, but those who travel must appreciate these more in comparison with other grounds they have seen in different parts of the world, and know what a valuable asset to persons. Mr Newman said there were three things which need "bliss, give." If he had been in our line he would probably, with his love of trees, and shrubs, have added a fourth one in the shape of the Recreation Grounds. As Captain Cullis would say: "The spirit of this lies in the application." The secretary and my brother of the Board will be thankful to receive the subscriptions of any amount of annual subscribers.—I am, etc.

CLEMENT W. GOVETT,
Chairman Recreation Grounds.

TH, AUGUST 11, 1904

FOOTBALL

BRITAIN v. TARANAKI
RECREATION GROUNDS,
NEW PLYMOUTH.

AUGUST 17th.

Kick off at 3.15 p.m.

Admission to Ground, 2-; to Green and enclosed Terraces, 1-.

The grounds will be open at 9 a.m. and the public are earnestly requested to COME EARLY AND AVOID THE CRUSH AT THE GATES.

Owing to the enormous crowds we have noticed their attention of seats by the Special Train, NEW PLYMOUTH PEOPLE should all be in the grounds before 2 p.m., otherwise there will be considerable congestion at the gates.

It is expected that the Ground will be taxed to its fullest capacity, and it is the intention of the Union to close the gates as soon as the Ground becomes overcrowded. For this purpose a notice will be issued stating "GROUNDS FULL, NO FURTHER ADMISSION."

A Change Bar will be established at the corner of Gilbert and Lander street where the public may receive change but NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN AT THE GATES.

The Gate marked "PRESS GATE," immediately to the left of the main entrance, will admit

PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, HANDSHEP IN UNIFORM, and the PRESS ONLY.

The OFFICIAL PROGRAMME and SOUVENIR issued by the Union will be sold on Tuesday and Wednesday at 1s for other programmes issued has not the sanction of the Union.

Tickets admitting to the Terrace can be obtained from any of the following on payment of 2s:—F. T. Ballinger, New Plymouth; C. H. Arndt, Stratford; F. Buchanan, Waima; F. Spence, Inglewood; A. Clark, Upperake; A. J. J. Johnston; W. Hattery, Manganui.

BUT THESE TICKETS AT ONCE YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BUY THEM AT ANY PRICE ON THE DAY OF THE MATCH.

C. H. ARNDT,
Hon. Sec. T.R.U.

TH, JULY 9, 1904

TARANAKI v. BRITAIN

A DRAWN GAME.

As was anticipated a large concourse of people assembled in the Recreation Grounds on Wednesday afternoon to witness the international contest, which had been the main subject of conversation in football and other circles for some days past. It was estimated that there were fully 5000 persons present representing all parts of the district, and the crowd at last

an "Federation," while there were many visitors from other centres. The Management Committee of the Taranaki Rugby Union had made good arrangements for seating the large crowd in order to give everyone a chance of seeing the game. The advice given to people to be on the ground early was accepted by the public, the majority of whom were seated a full hour before play was started. Unfortunately drifting rain set in just after noon, and as the wind went on it increased with the backing of the wind round to the north-west, when the drizzle became a good soaking, steady rain, which continued all the time play was on. The rain made things uncomfortable for the seated public, whose umbrellas and other protection from the weather gave a rather bleak to the scene and was in marked contrast to the bright and varied dresses of the ladies on bright days in the same grounds. The boys went before the match was well away by listening to some nice music furnished by the Town Band, under Bandmaster Barry, and in looking at several halos performed by Murray's troupe. It was, however, a great relief to the seating spectators, whose comfort had been considerably spoiled by the rain, when the troupe made their appearance on the grounds. The Taranaki troupe came on first, and, after waiting for Murray's troupe to dance a halo of well-known, they went on to the dressing tent at the south end of the ground, being heartily cheered as they proceeded. The Britishers then stepped into the enclosure, and Murray's troupe paid them a similar compliment, and the winners of the red, white and blue then also worked their way to the dressing tent, being warmly cheered on route. There was not much time wasted after that, for as soon as the players got their overalls off and all-weather in a few preliminaries they stepped into the arena of battle. Taranaki, in their amber and black livery, looked very fit, and were accorded a warm reception. The Britishers, in their navy blue, looking cold and neat in their newly bleached colours, and they also were received with a ovation.

THE TEAMS

The teams that played were as follows, some slight changes in back having made at the eleventh hour:-

TARANAKI (Amber and Black),

Full-back—

E. E. Foster, 10.7.

—

H. D. Thomson, 10.12; Stalker, 12.4.

H. L. Abbott, 13.4.

—

H. Mycoid, 11.4 (capt.)

—

J. Hunter, 11.2.

Wings—

W. A. Day, 12.0; J. Thomas, 12.7.

Forwards—

A. Soffien, 11.10; F. Glasgow, 12.0.

H. A. Wilson, 12.11; J. O'Sullivan,

12.7; W. Green, 12.0; R. Douglas,

12.7; W. McKay, 12.5.

BRITAIN (Red, White and Blue),

Full-back—

C. F. Stanger-Taylor, 12.7.

—

A. B. O'Brien, 12.4; R. J. Gale, 12.12.

F. C. Bush, 11.0; F. E. Mc-

Keedy, 12.4.

—

W. Llewellyn, 10.0; J. Voss, 10.7.

Forwards—

B. Babson, 12.8; D. B. Trull, 12.7; R.

J. Rogers, 12.5; T. B. Brown, 12.0.

Squires, 12.0; S. M. Cross-

cher, 12.0; A. F. Standing, 12.2; H.

T. Shand, 12.7.

O'Brien played at a position of forward.

Mr P. Madia, of Wellington, controlled the game, and Messrs C. Young and E. Jewett acted as time-keepers for Taranaki and Britain respectively.

The football match played on Wednesday last in the Recreation Grounds suggests a few thoughts as to the condition and management of the area devoted to sports. It has, we think, been over and over again conclusively proved that there is no place in the province where the people can or will congregate in such large numbers to witness a football match or other sports as in the Recreation Grounds. There is no place in the province—nor, for the matter of that, in New Zealand—where the natural facilities for viewing a football match or an athletic gathering are so admirable as in the Recreation Grounds. Apart also from these facilities is the fact that the surroundings of the sports field are unrivalled, making the grounds an ideal place for a holiday picnic. Having said that, we have said everything possible in favour of the Recreation Grounds as a sports rendezvous. There is scarcely a football ground used by the various clubs in the Taranaki Rugby Union which is not superior to the one here except in the very driest weather. Half a dozen better fields could have been found for the great match on Wednesday last; that is, from a player's point of view. This is not as it should be, and it should be rectified as soon as possible. We do not wish to reflect upon anyone, but simply to point out what, in our opinion, should be done, and why. We object, with a great many other people, to the grounds being cut about a great deal and any portion of the lake being filled in, or to the natural beauties of the ground being in any way sacrificed to sport. There is no necessity, to our mind, for enlarging the sports ground to such an extent as to make room for two football matches to be played simultaneously, as has been proposed. The main requirement is that the ground shall be thoroughly drained and well turfed. To drain it probably the best plan would be to drive a tunnel from the north-western corner to the stream below the waterfall. Then the ground requires filling in a few feet, and the earth for this purpose might very well be taken from the terraces, to cut which had a ditch would be no detriment to the appearance of the ground, and, besides, it would give the additional length so badly needed in the football ground. However, exactly how the neces-

sary improvements are to be carried out is a matter for the Board and those most closely connected with football and sports to discuss, and we should like to suggest that before the Board goes on with the work it has in view a conference should be held to decide what is required and what can be done to meet requirements. The members of the Board are naturally warm about preserving the beauties of the ground, and they are to be commended for it, but, as the football ground is now, it is an eyesore and an abortion, and at no great expense, without destroying any of the beauty, it might be made a first-class ground in every respect. What a valuable asset such a ground would be may be judged from the experience of Wednesday last. The occasion was an extraordinary one, of course, but it brought many hundreds—almost thousands—of pounds of hard cash into the town. There need be no difficulty about raising money to carry out improvements; whatever is required can readily be found. If the Board does the work it will be entitled to make a substantial charge for the use of the ground in future, while if funds are provided by the clubs and individuals the Board must fairly continue to take a small sum. The £15 charged for the use of the ground on Wednesday seems very little when the value of the gate is considered, but it must be remembered that it was private enterprise, outside of the Board, that converted the old swamp and horse-brake into its present condition. Another matter that demands attention before another large crowd has to be dealt with in the state of the exits from the ground. It was a "wonder people were not badly hurt on Wednesday. The whole question, however, ought to be gone into, not by the Board alone, because the members cannot be expected to know exactly what is wanted to make a perfect sports and football ground. Those interested in the latter should be asked to meet the Board on the ground, and to assist in devising a scheme which would make the Recreation Grounds beyond question the best sports ground in the province. It would be a very valuable asset for the town.

TH, AUGUST 30, 1904
OPOSSUMS RELEASED INTO
GROUNDS

Mr W. Hoyalston, of Fordell, has presented a pair of opossums to the Recreation Grounds Board. The frisky little animals have been liberated in the garden, where they should find a comfortable habitat. In the Fordell district the opossums had thrived amazingly.

TH, AUGUST 31, 1904
FIRST PROVINCIAL SOCCER MATCH

AUCKLAND V. TARANAKI.
Association Football.

The two played on
RECREATION GROUNDS,
THURSDAY, September 30, 1904.

Kick-off at 4 p.m.

Admission 5d.

H. CLARK.

Only 3000. 3000 300

TH, SEPTEMBER 1, 1904
FIRST PROVINCIAL SOCCER MATCH

THE ASSOCIATION GAME.

TO-DAY'S BEP. MATCH.

AUCKLAND V. TARANAKI.

The first representative match in Association football that has ever been played in Taranaki will take place in the Recreation Grounds this afternoon.

The New Plymouth Association Football Club was started during the present season, the promoter being Mr H. Clark, who is not only an enthusiast, but a player of some representative experience, he having represented the Auckland district in representative matches for the past three years. After considerable difficulty in obtaining the names of old "hammer" players, Mr Clark called a meeting of those interested, and the club started on its way, playing its first match against a team from Omata. Since then steady practice has been engaged in, and as the local men seemed to be playing a good game, Mr Clark, who had been elected captain, set to work to arrange for a visit of a representative team from Auckland, where the game is largely supported. As an outcome we have to-day's fixture.

The Matchup the Mayor will kick off at 4 p.m., and it will be interesting to note how he gets on himself. Our Mayor, however, is equal to officiating in any number of ways, so needless to say will set the ball rolling in orthodox style. A wag asks how he is to get out of the road of the players, but that should be an easy matter.

Messrs W. W. Horton and H. F. Russell, who played in the former club in Hawke, will get on the line, and Mr Hickey will officiate as referee.

The Auckland team is drawn principally from the Corinthian Club, of which the New Plymouth captain was formerly a member. There are two of that ilk among the visitors, one of them being a top man, and the other making a name for himself in his second year of senior grade football.

The Corinthian Club is composed mainly of emigrants from the Y.M.U.A. Their desertion of the old colony happened in this way. Six years ago a challenge cup was presented for competition amongst senior clubs, the donors being a well-known firm of distillers in the Old Country. The Y.M.U.A. entered for the competition, and after being run down for two years, crossed the cup in 1900. The Y.M.U.A. authorities, however, although they had allowed the team to compete, refused to have the cup placed in their hands, as the inscription on it betrayed its origin. The players took this as an affront, and joined the association in a body, and started the Corinthian Club, which this year entered the trophy, and had no scruples about receiving it.

Several of the visitors have earned high distinction on the field, Dyson being well-known from his connection with the game both in Dunedin and Auckland, while Dugmore, the goalkeeper, is said to be the best Association player in the colony.

TARANAKI (Maroon)

Goalkeeper:

Front

Full-backs

Clark (capt.)

Bullock

Halves:

Hold

Coates

Holland

Forwards:

Dyson

McAllister

Truman

Ambury

McAllister

NOTES.

The Auckland team is staying at the Toroman Hotel.

This evening the visitors will be entertained at a dinner and smoke concert at the Toroman Hotel, the Mayor the Mayor presiding. They will return to Auckland by Saturday night's steamer.

TH, SEPTEMBER 2, 1904
SOCCER MATCH REPORT

THE ASSOCIATION GAME.

AN AUCKLAND TEAM V. TARANAKI.

The first big Association match in Taranaki evoked yesterday in the Recreation Grounds, the contesting teams being an eleven from Auckland, principally members of the Corinthian Club, and a team representing the New Plymouth and Omata clubs. Association is new to this district, the local club having been in existence only a few months, and the visit of the Aucklanders was

made with a view to giving the new club an impetus by affording spectators a practical illustration of how the game should be played. Little did either side think that the infant club would prove victorious, yet such was the result, the locals winning by the narrow margin of one goal—Taranaki 1 goal, Auckland 1. The field was in a wretched state, and not fit for play. Several inches deep in a mixture of mud and sand, the state of the ground effectively spoiled the scientific foot-passing of the visitors, and only on a few occasions were the spectators shown what could be done in this department, the ball proving too heavy for effective work. Taranaki played the kick-hard-and-fellow-fast game, and this was the most suited to the conditions. Their individual kicking and setting were at times good, but on no occasion did they show the combination evinced by the visitors, who, despite the conditions under which they laboured, showed a far superior game to that of the losing team. In the first spell Taranaki seemed to have rather the best of it, and scored two goals, H. McAllister scoring one, and his brother, Keith McAllister, the other. The second spell was nearly all in favour of Auckland, though now and again the Taranaki men invaded the visitors' territory, and on one occasion shot a goal. During this spell, however, Auckland piled up its score of two goals, scored by Farnshaw and Maxwell.

For the striking team Dyson and Ambury were the most conspicuous in the forward division throughout, the latter playing with great vigour, whilst Ambury developed a remarkable turn of speed, and these two headed nearly every rush. The two McAllisters played well, and netted the three goals which comprised Taranaki's score. Truman did some work. Bullock, Coates, and Holland, the halves, also acquitted themselves well. Hold and Holland kicked well and getting in tricky work at times. Clark and Bullock, at full, were the best of the backs, using their heads to some purpose, whilst the goalkeeper, Front, only made one mistake, a serious one, which gave Auckland a goal. He was kept very busy, and twice after time saved his skin, in spite of the grossly nature of the ball. For Auckland the shining lights were the wing forwards and the goalkeeper, though every way showed an intimate acquaintance with the four corners of the game, playing in position and securing such advantage with the minimum of resting and running. The dribbling and ball-passing of J. Clark, Maxwell, and Farnshaw were splendid, and life may be said to have been laid out every man, although it was not everyone that got a chance to shine. Dugmore, as goalkeeper, and Cowan, at full, played right up to expectation, whilst Hickey, as wing-half, was very clever. Taken altogether it was apparent that on a dry ground the visitors could hardly have proved victors, as under ordinary conditions they

combination and superior knowledge must have told. Mr. Hiddle was referee, and Messrs H. F. Huxford and W. W. Martin acted as line umpires.

In the evening the visitors were entertained at a dinner and music concert at the Terminus Hotel. His Worship the Mayor presided, and the music did full justice to an excellent quartet, which was well served. After dinner the festive cap was produced, and a most enjoyable evening spent. "The King" having been legally honored, the chairman proposed "The Auckland Team," and in doing so remarked on the growing interest in the Association game, which was to him more interesting than Haggy. He displayed the respectable after-effects of Haggy football matches in this and other centers. Mr S. Clark (captain of the local team) followed, and after remarking on the progress made here in spite of the opposition of the Haggy authorities, thanked the visitors for their "long British sport" in visiting New Plymouth in order to help the game along. He promised that a Taranaki team would visit Auckland next year.

Mr Cowan (captain of the visiting team) responded, and, whilst admitting that they had not expected a "tacking" from the boys they had come to help, had to submit to defeat, though he partially blamed the wretched ground which spoiled the game. He referred to the vast increase in interest in Auckland, where teams had increased in three years from eight to nineteen, and the attendance at top matches now reached a thousand against a couple of hundred a few years ago. He hoped to see inter-provincial teams exchanging visits. He then proposed the health of the Taranaki team, which was duly honored, and responded to by the Mayor (president) and Mr S. Clark (captain).

TH, SEPTEMBER 2, 1904 SCUM ON LAKE FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE

After the heavy earthquake last month yellow scum was observed on the lakelets in the Recreation Grounds and on sheets of water in other localities. A local lady collected some from the grounds and forwarded it to Mr James Huxford, who, in a reply, gave the opinion that it was sulphur, which was not an uncommon ingredient of Mount Egmont. Mr James also expressed the opinion that the scum originated about 700 or 800 miles north-west of New Zealand.

TH, SEPTEMBER 19, 1904

Alleged Illegal Operation Case.

CASE REMOVED COURT.

The S.M. on this (Monday) morning to hear the illegal operation case, which has been before the Court on a couple of occasions.

Thomas Brown, an elderly man, who is described as a herring, of Opunake, was charged, on demand, that

on September 1st, at New Plymouth he had an instrument for a young woman, with intent to procure a child.

Accused was not represented by counsel.

Mr Eger (Stanish and Kerr) appeared to prosecute, and opened the case briefly. He called,

Fanny Graham, a waitress, aged 23 years, who said she kept company with a young man, named Edward Arthur Raven, which resulted in her getting into trouble. On Monday night, September 5th Raven and witness went to the Band rotunda in the Recreation Ground. Just as they arrived a man came up. The night was dark, and she could not see the man's face. (Witness then described what took place). Afterwards Raven and the stranger had a conversation at the fountain near the rotunda, and then Raven escorted her home. She got very ill on the following Thursday afternoon, and Mr Brown was called in to attend her, and on Friday morning she was removed to the hospital, where she remained till quite recently.

By Accused: Could you swear positively whether it was the strange man or Raven who used the instrument?

Witness: I think it was the strange man.

Accused, who took notice of the evidence, asked another question which had been answered in her evidence in chief.

The S.M. Do you know for what purpose you went to the Recreation Grounds?

Witness: Yes.

Edward Arthur Raven was read out.

Mr Gillies' said he was present to watch proceedings for this witness.

Raven, who described himself as a draper's assistant at New Plymouth, stated he kept company with the last witness. In consequence of the young woman's condition he wrote to Brown, of Opunake. He received a letter in reply. The prisoner was the man he wrote to at Opunake. He was never introduced to Brown before he wrote to him.

TH, SEPTEMBER 29, 1904 TROUT FRY FOR PONDS

On Wednesday night Mr H. McAllan, the secretary of the Acclimatization Society, received 10,000 rainbow fry from the Eastern hatcheries. The fry have been liberally in the ponds in the Recreation Grounds. A further consignment of 20,000 similar fry are expected to arrive this week. The local disciples of Frank Walton are keeping their tackle ready for the opening of the fishing season on Saturday next.

TH, OCTOBER 5, 1904 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Tuesday night. Present: Messrs Givett (Chairman), Newman, Corhill, Collis, and Cook.

An application from the New Plymouth Colliet Club for the use of the grounds for practice up to carnival week was granted on conditions.

A deputation from the Carnival Committee waited on the Board and asked for the use of the grounds for swimming, children's and athletic sports for three days during the carnival week. The Board decided to grant the use of the grounds to the Carnival Committee, unconditionally.

Application was also made that the Board clean out the big lake, and let the water off, but the Board could not see its way to grant this request.

It was decided that the Floral Fete usually held on November 8th be abandoned for this year, so as not in any way to interfere with the carnival.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENT OF SPORTS GROUND.

Mr John W. Wilson wrote the Board as follows in connection with the improvement of the Sports ground:—

"With the desire to make the sports field of our Recreation Grounds more up-to-date, and at the same time to add to your Board's income (very inadequate, I believe), I would like to make the following suggestion for a grandstand to be built on a suitable site overlooking the sports ground. I would suggest that an action scheme be made for honorary members of the Recreation Grounds, as an annual subscription of one guinea, such honorary members to be entitled to tickets admitting a member and a lady to the grandstand only, the ticket not including gate admission and not transferable. A grandstand to accommodate 700 persons could be built for £200. Honorary members would occupy 500 seats, and the committee of sports gatherings would have the right to let the balance of 200 seats at, say, 1s each. In view of the carnival to be held in the Recreation Grounds at Christmas time, and as, I have no doubt your sports ground will be very much used, I would suggest that active steps be at once taken to get the required number of honorary members, and that a grandstand be at once built, and handed over to the Carnival Committee, with the sole right to charge for admission to it during the carnival. In this the Carnival Executive should pay, say, 25 per cent, or other percentage of takings as may be fixed upon. If this were done I believe that the percentage of takings that you would receive would go a long way towards paying the cost of the stand. Should it be found practicable to adopt my suggestions, of

some modification of them, your Board would have an annual annual income of say, £2000 lbs, at an initial cost of about £200, being a little less than a first year's income, and, say, £250 annually for upkeep. Sports gatherings occupying the grounds would have to pay a little more for the right of letting these seats in the grandstand not occupied by honorary members. Should such a scheme as I suggest be adopted I feel sure that the people of New Plymouth would willingly support you by becoming honorary members; but they want some return for their subscriptions. I have visited the grounds with Messrs Sladden and Messenger, who both inform me that it would be quite practicable to get a grandstand on the right hand side of the terraces, above the path from Garden-street gate. From here an excellent view of the grounds is obtained, and the position is very sheltered and would not be affected much by the prevailing winds. A few pipes would have to be put down, and the earth-work would cost very little, say £50." A copy of the plan of the suggested stand was forwarded, showing a structure 120 feet in length, and 20 feet from top to bottom, including a platform at the bottom on the left side. There are eleven tiers of seats, seven in a tier, and each row is to accommodate ten persons, making a total of 770. The Board passed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Wilson, and also decided that he, and Messrs Sladden and Messenger be asked to meet the members of the Board on the ground at an early date to discuss the matter.

**TH, DECEMBER 16, 1904
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING**

A meeting of the Board was held on Wednesday evening, 14th inst. Present—Messrs C. W. Garrett (chairman), F. P. Cockill, W. A. Collins, M. Fraser, and the secretary.

A deputation from the Swimming Club waited upon the Board, and asked for permission to erect stages, hurdles for Macci, canoe races, spring board, etc., for the Carnival sports. Permission was granted, subject to all erections being removed when the sports are over and the ground is to be left in perfect order.

Resolved that no bathing be permitted in the lake after 3 a.m., and that no cycling be allowed in the grounds at any time.

The byelaws relating to dogs will be strictly enforced owing to injury to water fowl.

The life-boat will be placed in the hands of two careful men during the carnival.

The Volunteers are to be granted the use of the ground on the usual terms.

Arrangements will be made with the two bands for moonlight concerts in the grounds after the Carnival.

Messrs F. P. Cockill and M. Fraser have been given full powers to act for the Board during the Carnival period.

The Tawa Band were granted permission to hold a concert in the grounds on Christmas afternoon, provided no collection was made.

The Carnival Committee will be requested to put on two men to assist the Board in clearing up the grounds after each day's event.

The Carnival Committee is to be asked to arrange with the Committee from the Board for the fireworks display in the grounds.

The secretary reported that the Board were now working on a bank overdraft guaranteed by the members of the Board.

TH, DECEMBER 17, 1904

**NEW PLYMOUTH
EXHIBITION OF ARTS
AND INDUSTRIES.
OPENS BOXING DAY.**

The Most Attractive, Interesting, and Instructive Display the Colony has ever seen.

Home and Foreign Manufactures.

Machinery in Motion.

Up-to-Date Dairy Appliances.

Colonial Productions and Industries.

Picture, Works of Art, and Copies from all the Ends of the Earth.

Music Daily in the Italian Garden, Spanish Concert Hall and Theatre.

Ample Dining and Refreshment Halls and Tents.

TYPICAL MAORI VILLAGE
and
NATIVE ENTERTAINMENTS.

Grand Christmas Carnival
in the Beautiful Recreation Grounds.

MILITARY TOURNAMENT.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

Clipping Contests by Champion Swimmers.

SWIMMING AND DIVING BY CHAMPION SWIMMERS.

Marine and Mountain Excursions.

Grand Displays of Fireworks.

Children's Carnival, with Marionettes, Masses, Hobbies, Toys, Games, and Puzzles, &c., &c., &c.

FOR THREE WEEKS ONLY!

Open from 11 AM to 10 PM. Admission Free.

THE GREATEST TREAT OF YOUR LIFE!

Excursions from All Parts!

COME IN YOUR THOUSANDS!

**TH, DECEMBER 21, 1904
MENTION OF GLOWWORM CAVE**

The inability of our Recreation Grounds Board would have required a such check had they seen one of our local builders and his assistants emerging from the vicinity of the glow worm cave in up-to-date swimming costumes, on Tuesday afternoon. It was, however, found necessary to spend some two hours in the lake to erect the staking for the swimming sports.

**TH, DECEMBER 21, 1904
PEA HEN DONATED**

The Recreation Grounds Board has been presented by Mr H. Garrick with a pea hen to mate with the bird already there.

**TH, DECEMBER 26, 1904
PREPARATION FOR FIREWORKS
DISPLAY**

Preparations for the fireworks display to be given to-morrow evening in the Recreation Grounds are now well under way. All the work is being done under the supervision of Messrs Richardson and Morgan, and as both are experienced in handling pyrotechnical properties no hitch should occur. One of the set pieces for that night is a representation of Niagara Falls, which will be set off from the bridge. The piece will be 60 feet in length, and with the reflection in the waters of the lake will produce a very fine effect. There are also to be shown two "airy beauties," which are said to be beautiful sights. The day itself will be propelled by the action of the pyrotechnic agents. Altogether a picture of unusual beauty should be evolved by the art of man in such a lovely setting as nature affords him in the Recreation Grounds.



Boatshed and Boatshed Bridge. (*Auckland Weekly News* 4th February 1904)

1905

The development of the Sports Ground once again became a major issue, putting the Recreation Ground Board in a difficult position. Their position being that running the Recreation Ground was their brief, not developing a sports ground. The way forward was again to have a separate committee come in and take over the development of the sports ground. In November, a Recreation Sports Ground Committee was formed, made up of representatives from many different local sporting bodies. It was chaired by A. L. Humphries. Humphries was a rugby player who had represented his country 15 times scoring 47 points. He played halfback weighing in at 60kg, hence the affectionate nickname “Skinny”. He went on to manage the All Blacks in 1908. Humphries was an accountant by trade. The committee took control of the sports ground for 7 years.

The planned scheme involved cutting back the southern terraces 16 ½ yards, the eastern terrace 11 yards, and the hill on the west side of the ground to be cut back 16 ½ yards and a terrace built. The playing surface was to be raised 4 feet and measure 135 yards long and 110 yards wide. A cycle track was proposed around the playing field. The main entrance would move to Gilbert Street and a changing room and pavilion would be constructed in the south-east corner if funds allowed. The cost was estimated to be around £1300. A lot of fundraising would be necessary and a ladies committee was set up to help. Fundraising got off to a good start with a £100 donation from the Licensed Victuallers Association.

The first Tea House was built this year, this was possible because local tradespeople gave their time gratis. The building was designed by architect J. A. Maisey who left New Plymouth for Wellington in 1905. The Tea House may well have been his New Plymouth swansong.

Plant donations included: Collection of native shrubs, bulbs, and seeds from Mrs Weyergang of Ngaire for planting round the new ladies’ room, and shrubs from Miss Woods.



Original Tea House. Taken 1914 (Puke Ariki PHO2008-077)

Summary of significant events

- Spar (mainmast salvaged from the shipwrecked *Gairloch*) donated to Recreation Grounds to be used as a flagstaff.
- Tea House gets go ahead.
- First mention of fish hatchery - not built until 1921.
- Tea House completed, designed by John Arthur Maisey.
- Robert Mace appointed custodian and assistant custodian job advertised.
- Mr W Pycroft Junior employed as assistant caretaker.
- New sports committee formed to make improvements to Sports Ground.



Two pictures of the Recreation Ground (*Auckland Weekly News* August 1905)

TH, JANUARY 2, 1905

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

IN THE RECREATION GROUNDS

TO-DAY

MONDAY, JANUARY 2,
At 12 Noon.

EXHIBITION BY THE CHAMPION
CAVILL.

Admission: 1s. Children, 6d.

FIREWORKS! FIREWORKS

TO-NIGHT

AT THE
RECREATION GROUNDS
BY

Messrs E. F. HICKERTON & Co.,
Christchurch.

In connection with Exhibition.

GRAND, NOVEL AND HEALTHFUL.
CAN BE ECLIPSED FOR
BEAUTY.

COME AND SEE THE
NIGHT ATTACK ON ISLET
ARTIFICIAL.

SURPASSINGLY BEAUTIFUL
FULL OF ENTHUSIASM.

NO DANGER OF LIVE BULLETS.

ABSOLUTELY THE MOST GORGEOUS
OUR DISPLAY EVER HAD.

Commence 8.15 sharp. Band in at
8 o'clock.

H. A. LINDON,
Secretary.

TH, JANUARY 3, 1905

NEW PLYMOUTH CARNIVAL AND
EXHIBITION.

To-morrow, at 12,

IN

Recreation Grounds.

Grand Athletic Sports

BY LEADING ATHLETES OF
NEW ZEALAND.

HIGHLAND GAMES
AND
SPORTS.

TARANAKI PIPE BAND.
GRAND ATTRACTIONS.

Admission, 1/-; Children, 6d.

TH, JANUARY 4, 1905

NEW PLYMOUTH CARNIVAL AND
EXHIBITION OF ART AND
INDUSTRIES.

To-morrow (Thursday).

Children's Day.

THE TREAT OF THE
CARNIVAL.

Sports for Boys and
Girls.

In Recreation Grounds.
Commencing at 11 o'clock.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME.

GRAND ATTRACTIONS.

872 ENTRIES.

SPECIAL POT DANCES.

MAGGI CANOE HURDLE RACES.

Admission to Sports Grounds, in
Children Hall-price,
Hot Water, Tea, Milk and Sugar pro-
vided.

BRING YOUR OWN MUGS.

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TH, JANUARY 11, 1905

GRAND MILITARY TOURNAMENT

EVENT OF THE NEW PLYMOUTH
CARNIVAL.

To be held in the Recreation
Grounds, New Plymouth, on the
presence of Right Hon. B. J.
Brooker, P.O., L.L.D., Minister
for Defence.

ON

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1905.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1905.

To commence at 1.45 p.m.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION,
MANUAL & FINEST EXERCISE
AMBULANCE COMPETITION
HEAVY BILLED INFANTRY
NIGHT ALARM
BAYONET FIGHTING,
TENT PITCHING & STRIKING,
TILTING AT THE BING,
FLAY & BOWLE RACKS,
BULL, ETC.

Admission by Grounds:
Adults, 1/-; Children, 6d.

H. A. LINDON,
Secretary, Carnival.

TH, FEBRUARY 4, 1905
VANDALISM IN THE GROUNDS

Some lads, on mischief bent, tossed
an old house down near the Recrea-
tion Grounds northern boundary on
Thursday, and it was only by a bit
of good luck that the fire did not
spread to and destroy the plantations
in the Grounds in the vicinity. They
then carried their campaign of des-
truction into the Grounds, breaking a
box of empty bottles at the bathing
shed, and doing other vicious acts.

TH, FEBRUARY 21, 1905
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

The monthly meeting was held on
Monday night. Present: Messrs C.
W. Gossett (Chairman), F. P. Cashin,
W. L. Newman, W. A. Collins, and E.
H. Tuke (Secretary).

PERCENTAGE QUESTION.

The Board resolved a resolution
passed at last meeting requiring the
Boards to contribute 50 per cent. of
the proceeds of moonlight concerts to
be given in the grounds. The Board
in its spirit to accept 25 per cent.
of the gross receipts.

GENERAL.

No landing will be allowed on the
beach after sunset and on Sundays.

If land permit a ladies' room with
all conveniences will be erected in the
grounds.

THE SPORTS GROUND.

Mr Shadden (Shadden and Palmer),
will be asked to prepare plans and
estimate for draining and improving
the sports ground, and upon com-
pletion of the plans, etc., a public
meeting be called to consider the ques-
tion of carrying the proposals into
effect.

The Star Club applied for the use
of the ground for sports on Easter
Monday. The Takapu Club applied
for the use of the ground for next
football season.

The applications were granted sub-
ject to the question of improvement.

VOTES OF THANKS.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr
A. Hoyle for donation of a new
instrument of the Gaiety to meet
as a hospital.

A vote of thanks was passed to the
Chairman for defraying the cost, £8
10s. of clapping, painting, and covering
the flagstaff.

ACCOMMODATION AT SPORTS

The Secretary was instructed to
write to the President of the Taranaki
Rugby Union asking him to confer
with the football and athletic clubs,
and state what accommodation would
be required in connection with the
dressing rooms, and other buildings
under the proposed scheme of improve-
ments to the Sports Ground.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed
to 64 subscribers for forwarding their
annual subscriptions.

SPECIAL MEETING.

The Board decided that as soon as
plans are prepared by Messrs Shadden
and Palmer for the sports ground, a
meeting of the Board will be immedi-
ately held to consider same.

ACCOUNTS.

Accounts, £5 11s 6d, were passed
for payment.
The Board, res.

TH, FEBRUARY 14, 1905
ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS

The Recreation Grounds Board desire to acknowledge receipt of annual subscriptions as follows: Mrs. G. Cairnes, Messrs Cairnes, J. W. Johnson, R. J. Jay, B. Berry, C. H. Burgess, M. Fraser, J. Patterson, H. Julian, Charles Weston, J. Eaton, M. Percy, H. Buckleton, E. Hurver, G. Gray, W. Humphries, J. H. Kay, H. C. Hughes, E. O. Lightwood, F. Kay, W. G. & Arnold, J. Blyth, Congdon & Cook, C. Buchanan, J. G. Goodwin, Murray & Moore, N. E. Macdonald, C. C. Ward, G. A. Corney, J. Gardner, Murray & Co., W. Rossby, F. Griffiths, G. Stewart, E. Ditch, West & Sons, E. Middle, A. Lovell, Ching Koo, W. Fraser, C. Carter, A. S. Russell, F. S. Johns, T. O. Kelley, M. Harrison, E. Donnell, G. H. Arrowsmith, and donation from Rev. Smith.

TH, MARCH 1, 1905
TROUT DISTRIBUTED FROM PONDS

Mr. B. McAllan, the secretary of the Acclimatization Society, is now engaged in the annual distribution of yearling trout from the ponds in the Recreation Grounds. So far Mr. McAllan has distributed a large number of rainbows in streams down the coast, in the Waikanae and Rukohia districts. These streams were stocked with brown trout some years ago, and many good-sized fish of this species have been taken from these waters towards the mouth. As the rainbow thrives in the streams of this district, the work of the Acclimatization Society should give anglers good sport in a few years in the rivers down the coast. Mr. McAllan has still a good deal of work to do in distributing this season's yearlings.

TH, MARCH 16, 1905
TEA HOUSE TO PROCEED

The Recreation Grounds Board has for a very long time past considered a comfortable ladies' room in the Grounds a desideratum, but want of funds has so far prevented anything being done in this direction. The Board has now a certain amount of material on hand suitable for such a building and can vote about £15 out of ordinary funds towards the cost, but a further sum of about £20 is necessary. The master builders of the town have been approached, and generally agreed to provide the labour for meeting the building free of cost to the Board. The plan, which has been drawn by us, provides for a very pretty building, with a tea room attached in which will no doubt be appreciated by lady visitors. The Board trusts that the ladies of the town will come forward and help the Board in this matter. The plan can be seen at the office of the Secretary (Mr. R. H. Tribe), Egmont street.

TH, March 22, 1905
ABOUT THE TEA HOUSE

Recognising the need for a ladies' room at the Recreation Ground the committee of management have had plans prepared for a suitable structure, neatly designed and convenient.

The committee have been unable so far to carry out the work owing to lack of funds but are now in a position to allocate £15 for the purpose, besides having a quantity of suitable material available. The master builders of the town on being approached have generously offered to supply the labour for the erection of the building free of cost. Before it can be put in hand, however, a further sum of £25 is required and the committee trust that the ladies of the town will interest themselves in raising this amount. A united effort would undoubtedly be successful, and enable this necessary work to be undertaken without further delay. To date the fair sex have made no move in this direction but it is hoped that the committee's offer will be taken advantage of otherwise the proposal to add to the ground's attractions will lapse.

The plans, which were prepared by Mr J. A. Maisey, architect, may be inspected at the office of the secretary, Mr Tribe, Egmont Street.

These provide for an attractive little structure with ladies' retiring rooms, spacious verandahs and ample seating accommodation, and there is to be a tea room attached, the dimensions of which will be 10ft by 15ft. Among the conveniences will be a large copper, which will prove of service in case of public gatherings. The tea rooms are designed with sliding doors so that upon special occasions they can be opened out and the accommodation largely augmented.

TH, APRIL 10, 1905
TEA HOUSE CONSTRUCTION STARTS

The work of erecting ladies' rooms (with a refreshment pavilion and kitchen) at the Recreation Grounds has been put in hand by the committee of management. The appropriation has long been regarded as very necessary, and the generosity of the master builders of the town in providing the labour free of cost has enabled the committee to get on with the work.

TH, APRIL 12, 1905
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The last meeting of the Recreation Board was presided over by Mr Stewart, and there was a good attendance of members.

Mr Sheldon attended the meeting bringing plans of the proposed alterations to the sports ground. The Board

carefully considered the details of the whole scheme, and passed the following resolution:—"That Messrs Sheldon and Palmer be asked to proceed with the plans and estimates as produced, with certain modifications."

The chairman and Mr Seaman were appointed to draw up a schedule of prices for the use of the sports ground.

The Star Football Club was granted the use of the grounds on 24th April on the usual terms.

An approximate balance-sheet for the year ending March 31st was laid on the table, and is to be published, together with the chairman's report, and issued to subscribers in the course of a few days.

Mr S. Percy Smith was appointed overseer for the month.

The secretary reported that the construction of the ladies' room in the grounds had been commenced.

TH, APRIL 22, 1905
STAR ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

Easter Monday.

STAR SPORTS.

The principal attraction in town on Monday will be the annual sports in the Recreation Ground, arranged by the Star Football Club. Excellent entries have been received for the various running events, and as some of the best runners in New Zealand are engaged, the public should witness some interesting contests. The other competitions during the day will go to make up a good day's sport. The first event is timed for 1 o'clock.

AMATEUR EVENTS.

Mr J. Hempton has declared the following handicaps for the Amateur Races:—

100 YARDS.—A. J. J. O'Donnell 100 yds, A. H. Stahr, W. H. Bolton, F. C. Kennedy, Palford, G. Hartley, G. Dunbar 1 yds, W. C. Wood 7 yds.

440 YARDS.—A. H. Stahr 100 yds, A. K. Lyon 7 yds, W. H. Bolton, G. Hartley, F. C. Kennedy, G. Palford 11 yds, W. C. Wood 1 yds.

ADDITIONAL HANDICAPS.

BOYS' BICYCLE RACE.—W. Skipper 100 yds, W. Whitaker 1 yds, Morris 1 yds, F. Cook 1 yds, S. George 10 yds.

Recreation Grounds Board.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The following is the Chairman's report to be read at the annual meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board:—

It has been the practice for some time past for the Chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board to give a personal report on the condition of his term of office. Such report does not necessarily represent the feeling of the whole Board, and I propose to take this opportunity of stating my own views for the benefit of those of the public who take an interest in the welfare of the grounds.

An important change in the personnel of the Board has been caused by the addition of three members of the Borough Council, who by courtesy are allowed exactly the same privileges of voting and management as the statutory members of the Board. It was felt by both Board and Council to be an anomaly for one Borough Council to vote, but not yet to have no voice in their disposal, and a solution of the difficulty has been arrived at which has solved, and I have no doubt, will continue to act, well and without friction.

The full roll of the Board is seven members, but the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr H. Cook has not been filled, as he in his capacity of Mayor acts as one of the three Borough Council representatives. It is essential for the proper working of the Board that the majority of its members should reside in office for a long time, so that the grounds may be managed on some kind of system, but it is equally desirable that new blood should be added.

A very great improvement has taken place in the look of the grounds. The native trees are growing rapidly, and a number of beautiful paths have been laid out, although I fear that most of our townsmen do not make the use of the new walks that their beauty deserves. In fact, the grounds are taken too much as a matter of course, and are admired more by strangers than by those whose familiarity with them breeds indifference, if not contempt. The result of forming so many new paths has been to necessitate a good deal of extra expense in the upkeep of parts of the grounds which were hitherto neglected.

It has long been felt that there was no accommodation for ladies, and the Board, acting on a faith that has never failed them, have gladly accepted the offer of the Builders' Association to supply all the work required to put up a handsome building, with ten rooms attached, and not exactly knowing where the money is coming from, have pledged themselves to supply about £500 worth of material required. What is wanted to increase the beauty of the grounds is more useful, which can only effectively be got by issuing flowering shrubs

and flowers in beds. Those who have seen the Sydney Gardens, which are probably the most beautiful in the world, will know what it is possible to do with plenty of money, but the almost adjoining grounds of Driveways and Marston are practical examples showing how robust can be got at an almost trifling cost. If a small greenhouse were put up, bright annuals could be easily raised, and there would be no difficulty in getting plenty of donations of any quantity of such flowers as dahlias and the various kinds of nasturtium. If one twentieth acre in real earnest they need not upon the Borough Council giving a very liberal grant for the upkeep of the Gardens, and the list of our annual subscribers need be more than doubled. In the meantime could not our public and private gardens each undertake to keep a small bed of flowers if the rough work of digging were first done? A healthy rivalry might be encouraged by a special prize being awarded for the best kept bed. A few hours spent every month in such work as I suggest would be an habitual and profitable of more good than the same time spent in games. Some points may be made that I have said nothing about the sports ground, which some will say ought to be put in the foreground, but I would remind those who speak through this dietary report that the Act under which the Board is constituted is "The Towns (Improvement and Amenity) Act, 1874," and, with the exception possibly of the title of the Board, there is nothing in the Act from one end of it to the other which implies that the Board should have anything to do with the holding of sports.

The main duty of the Board is to maintain the grounds and keep adding to their beauty, and if the Board has been guilty of any sin of omission in this respect it has been the fault of those who have not supplied them with sufficient funds. It is, I suppose, a fact that no public grounds in the colony are kept at half the cost that ours are, and very few indeed are as beautiful, and it is to be regretted that the custodian and his assistant are paid such miserable wages.

Those who cry out against the Board for doing so little for the sports ground are not, I think, those of the community who are the most liberal, and nothing is more humiliating or annoying to the Board than the attempts made to secure the use of the grounds for the lowest possible figure, and the ill-considered threats that if the Board insists upon its proper proportion of gate money then important matches will be held in other places; and it cannot be forgotten that on a recent occasion when I understood, about £100 was received in the grounds, the Board, after unpleasant bargaining, had to put up with £15. I have always been a supporter of noisy games, and indeed desire more than I do to have a good sports ground, but when that figure (and during I trust that the members of the Board will be firm and insist upon their due share of the receipts for the purpose of further improvements. Messrs. Sheldon and Palmer are preparing a plan showing how the sports ground can

be thoroughly drained and railed, and the different athletic clubs have been asked to send in plans and estimation of the requisite stands and dressing rooms, and if the sporting element is as earnest as it would have us believe, there ought to be no difficulty in making the sports ground a credit to the place, and fit for any reasonable requirements. The original idea is that the Board at present receive large sums from sports and does nothing in return, but the accounts for the past year, which will shortly be published, show that during the past year only £40 12s 6d was received as against £41 7s and £25 9s 6d, received from subscribers and special donations.

I would again repeat that it is no part of the work of the Board to create or improve the sports ground, but if money is supplied to it for this special purpose every penny will be spent in the best possible way.

In conclusion I would beg for more annual subscribers and for more liberal support, and it would not be out of place to suggest that occasional lectures would be acceptable.

Last year the Board gave up its Rural Iris and Honeysuckle as not in clack with the Education Committee, and thereby satisfied at least £125, which has not been made up, in addition to this some regular subscribers happened to be unobtainable, and apparently have dropped out in consequence. Every member of the Board desires a fair amount of time to the work of improving the grounds, and all our certain liabilities in the shape of a guarantee to secure an income overrunning overheads, and the Board welcomes suggestions, as it is always open to consider any new ideas and does not intend to resist criticism.

I trust that my successor will be able to do more than I have, but I am certain that he will not receive more kindness or consideration from his fellow members.—CLAREMONT N. GOVETT, Chairman (temp.) of Trustee for Public Recreation.

TDN, MAY 4, 1905 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The annual meeting of the Board was held last evening at the office of Mr F. P. Cook, Treasurer. Messrs C. W. Govett (Chairman), Mr Percy Smith, F. P. Cook, W. L. Newman, and H. C. Hughes. Resolutions for absence were received from Mr H. Ford and the Borough Council representatives.

The Chairman read his annual statement, already published, and the Secretary read the balance sheet for the past 12 months, which was accepted as follows:—

Receipts.—Cash in hand £15 14s 6d, balance in bank £5 9s 1d, donations box in grounds £7 13s 6d, subscriptions (incl. members) £44 11s, special donations £25 17s 6d, sale of shares £4 0s 6d, football £20 14s, sports £24 5s, cricket £2 11s, Borough Council subsidy 28 months £130, rents £7 10s, boat hire and license 17s, training fee 2s 6d, fishing 10s, White Hart Hotel 10s 6d, Acclimatization Society £10; total £254 10s 6d.

such are loaned, from returns collected for the hire of the sports ground, any balance after paying such expenses to be handed to the Board. The committee also requested the use of the other portions of the Recreation Ground on any occasion that might be required for the purpose of raising money.

On the deputation withdrawing the proposal was gone into fully. The chairman said that owing to the structural circumstances of the Board a sum of money was required to pay ordinary current expenses, and in view of that fact he regretted the Board was unable to approve the proposal without stipulating for an annual payment. He pointed out that it was possible for the Board by the expenditure of from £200 to £250 to put the ground in a condition fit for general sports purposes and bring in a revenue of from £50 to £60 per annum.

TH, OCTOBER 16, 1905
ISABELLA SMALL BEQUEST

The Recreation Grounds Board desire to acknowledge the receipt of £25 from Mr. K. E. MacFarland, executor under the will of the late Mrs. Small, and subscriptions from Miss Buchanan & Co., Mr. Stocker & Co.

TH, NOVEMBER 8, 1905
TEA HOUSE ADVERT

WANTED KNOWN.—The Tea Kiosk in the Recreation Grounds will be opened To-morrow (Wednesday) Afternoon, under the supervision of Mr. George.

TH, NOVEMBER 14, 1905
NEW COUNCILOR ON BOARD

Mr. Hutchin was elected a member of the Reserve Committee and the Recreation Grounds Board in place of Mr. Morgan, lately resigned.

TH, NOVEMBER 15, 1905
SPORTS GROUND DEVELOPMENT

Control of Sports Ground
HANDED TO REPRESENTATIVE
COMMITTEE.
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REQUIRED.

The public of New Plymouth and particularly the sporting community will be pleased to learn that an arrangement has been come to, whereby a representative committee will have control of the sports ground at the Recreation Ground for a term of seven years in order to effect a scheme of improvements estimated to cost about £1000, on the lines originally published.

This decision was come to at Tuesday evening's meeting of the Board, when during the temporary absence of Mr. F. J. Corhill the chair was taken by Mr. C. W. Garrett, and there were also present, Mr. Collis and Hutchin, and Messrs W. L. New-

man and H. Ford. A deputation consisting of Messrs A. L. Humphries, G. Griffiths, J. Clarke, and A. George, representing the United Sports Committee, interviewed the Board a second time.

The Committee urged that the terms previously stipulated were very onerous, as they would not be expected to pay a rental of £40 in addition to spending such a large sum of money on the improvements. The Sports Committee had nothing to gain beyond assisting to make one of the finest grounds in Australasia. The committee were anxious to enter into the matter with an annual rental, more especially as there would be a certain period during which the ground would be unproductive whilst the work was in progress. The committee further suggested that they should have a lease for seven years with right of renewal at the end of that period.

The Chairman (Mr. Garrett) said he thought the Board would be inclined to waive the annual rental, but with regard to the renewal of the lease there seemed to be a good deal of difference of opinion on that point. The Board were pretty unanimous that they would not like to bind themselves to a renewal of the lease, as it was a matter that could be dealt with at the end of the seven years term. Personally, he thought that probably the management of the sports ground would at the end of that period, provide some in charge of a representative committee. With regard to the scheme of improvements issued the Board were of opinion that it would be desirable to lay down a bicycle track, as Wanganui and other places had pulled their tracks up in disgust.

Mr. Humphries pointed out that as the improvements were made the track would be put out of the solid turf. The only additional cost would be in banking up the track in some places, and having the whole contained a cost of about £20.

To show that cycling was a very quiet matter of the deputation quoted the substantial entries received for races at Taranaki, Nelson, and locally, and said that those events were the best times on local sports programmes.

Mr. Humphries said that the Board had stated the facilities more particularly related to the historical work than to sport, and in those circumstances he could not understand the objection raised as to giving the right of renewal of the lease at the end of seven years. With the control in the hands of sports people they would get much more liberal donations from the public, to say nothing of the various sporting clubs and unions. At present the sports ground was non-productive, and all the big fixtures were being driven away to Stratford and Hawera.

Mr. Collis argued that the matter of renewing the lease did not constitute a difficulty. Through the Board did not care to bind itself, he looked on the renewal as almost a foregone conclusion.

The Chairman said that the Board believed were fairly well at the end of seven years the Board would probably be of the same opinion or more. No one was more anxious than he to see sports flourish, and he recognized that the Board was hardly the body to prepare the scheme and further more.

Mr. Collis argued that as the ground was almost useless in its present state, the Board had either to sanction what work had been done or allow the sports committee to enter the ground to a state of completion. In the interests of business people it was a good thing for the town to have a proper sports ground, as all the big fixtures brought trade. It was better for the Board to bridge the £20 rent for two or three years, and practically demonstrate their sympathy with the project. The loan could be made up later on.

Mr. Newman held similar views.

After a good deal of discussion, it was agreed that any representative body should have on it a member of the Board. A resolution was finally adopted agreeing to hand the control of the sports ground over to a properly-constituted representative sports committee for a term of seven years, rent free, for the purpose of carrying out the scheme of improvements. An agreement is to be drawn up and signed.

The deputation thanked the chairman and members for their decision, and expressed the belief that with public assistance the scheme will be a complete success. The money is to be raised by subscription and donations.

TH, NOVEMBER 15, 1905
DONATION

The Recreation Grounds Board desire to thank Mrs. K. MacFarland and Miss F. Wood for the sum of £5, being the proceeds of a bridge party procured by these ladies for the benefit of the Grounds.

TH, NOVEMBER 17, 1905
SUPPORT FOR SPORTS GROUND
WORK

The united sports committee are likely to be well backed up in their scheme for improving the Recreation Ground. Already a number of subscriptions up to £50 have been promised. One contribution has offered the use of two days and more for a couple of days work gratis, and others are said to be willing to assist the same way. Big crowds in town for the various fixtures means big trade, and the tradespeople are likely to contribute generously to the fund. A start will probably be made in February or March next.

The idea of the united sports committee in undertaking the control of the sports ground is to encourage local sport and the holding of the big fixtures here. New Plymouth can always be relied upon to put up a good "gate" and will undoubtedly get the preference when the ground is in a fit state, as the Recreation Ground is used throughout New Zealand. The Stratford people, it was mentioned at Tuesday's meeting, are to spend £200 upon their sports ground with a view to securing the big fixtures, but in putting forward an splendid scheme of improvements to cost £1000 New Plymouth has emphatically gone "one better."

TH, NOVEMBER 27, 1905
FIRST MEETING OF SPORTS
GROUND COMMITTEE

RECREATION GROUND
IMPROVEMENTS.

An enthusiastic meeting of delegates from the different bodies interested in the scheme of improvements to the Recreation Ground was held at the Town Hall on Friday evening. The chair was taken by Mr A. Humphries, and there were also present—Mr. Collins (Borough Council), Messrs F. F. Cockill (Recreation Ground Board), F. Moresby (Tukapa P. C.), G. Griffiths (Star sports), K. Talbot (Carriington Road Hockey Club), W. Carthorpe (N. P. Hockey Club), E. Whitte (North Taranaki Cricket Association), H. Storer (S. P. Cricket Club), W. Perkins (Carriington Road Cricket Club), H. Ford (N. P. Fire Brigade), H. J. Hoates (Friendly Society Sports Committee), and J. Clarke (Star F. C.). Apologies were received from the representatives of the Cycling and Tourist Club, Murray Fire Brigade, and Association Football Union.

It was agreed to ask the two town boards and the Council and Rifle Corps to each elect one representative to the committee.

Mr J. Clarke was appointed hon. secretary, and Mr G. Griffiths hon. treasurer.

The committee will meet each Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock, the place of meetings to be fixed by next meeting.

A resolution was passed formally taking over control of the ground for a term of seven years. Discussion took place on the question of raising funds. On the suggestion of several enthusiastic lady helpers, it was decided to ask the Mayor to call a meeting of ladies by Wednesday if possible to devise means for assisting the work. Liberal support from the ladies is assured.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the proprietor of the Taranaki Herald for his offer to do the preliminary printing free, as a contribution to the fund.

The Committee adopted a draft set of rules for their future guidance. The Committee has reserved power to ask any club to elect a representative to fill any vacancy caused by resignation or forfeiture.

TH, NOVEMBER 30, 1905
SPORTS GROUND FUNDRAISING

A PUBLIC MEETING of the Ladies will be held in the Town Hall **TOMORROW, Friday, at 4 p.m.**, to elect a Ladies' Committee to assist in raising funds for carrying out the proposed improvements to the Recreation sports ground.

ALICE M. COCKE,
Mayoress.

TH, DECEMBER 1, 1905
SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE

A further meeting of the Recreation Sports Ground Committee was held on Wednesday evening. There were present—Messrs Humphries (in the chair), Perkins, Talbot, Moresby, Fook, Griffiths, Stoker, George, Whittle, Hobbs, Burns, and J. Clarke (abs.). It was decided to ask the Taranaki Jockey Club and the Agricultural Society to appoint a representative on the Committee. The whole of the delegates agreed to call a meeting of the respective bodies which they represent for the purpose of ascertaining what financial assistance will be forthcoming from the interested clubs, societies, etc., and the secretary is also to communicate with other bodies not directly represented on the Committee. It was decided to write to the Colonial Secretary for permission to conduct an art union. A hearty vote of thanks was recorded to Messrs Montefiore, Becker, Russell, and Perkins, for the generous offer of the free use of their teams to assist the scheme of improvements. The Mayoress (Mrs H. Cook) notified that she had received a meeting of ladies for Friday. It was decided to postpone the next weekly meeting of the Committee on Wednesday will be postponed.

TH, DECEMBER 5, 1905
TEA HOUSE ADVERT

WANTED KNOWN—Delicious Afternoon Tea served at the "Tea Room" in Recreation Grounds daily (Sunday included). 203

TH, DECEMBER 12, 1905
DOOR TO DOOR CANVASSING

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee cooperated with a large meeting of ladies on Monday evening, the Mayoress presiding. It was considered that Christmas Eve would not be a suitable date for taking subscriptions, as it might interfere with the business of the tradespeople. It was finally decided that a box collection be taken next Saturday, 16th. The town and surrounding suburbs have been divided into blocks, and every house will be canvassed for subscriptions to raise funds to carry out the work of improving the Recreation sports and football ground.

TH, DECEMBER 13, 1905
PROPOSED SPORTS GROUND
IMPROVEMENTS

For the information of our readers who are not familiar with the plans we may explain what is proposed to be done, providing sufficient funds are forthcoming, and of that we have no doubt. The length and width of the present sports ground will be increased, the former by cutting the southern terrace three quarters of a chain, or about 16½

yards, further back. Additional width will be obtained by cutting the eastern terrace back half a chain, and by cutting three-quarters of a chain into the hill by the present main gates. The earth so removed will be used to raise the playing field about four feet, and a cycling track, a quarter of a mile in circumference, will be cut out of the solid clay. Drain pipes will be laid through the ground, with a fall from the centre to the sides, and in order to make a thoroughly dry surface a layer of sand will be put on before the top soil. This will provide a playing field 125 yards long by 110 yards wide with a cycling track round the outside. To reassure those who may fear so extensive a work will mar the beauty of the grounds it may be explained that in cutting back the southern and eastern terraces the present effect will scarcely be interfered with, while the present somewhat unsightly appearance of the hill on the right of the entrance gates will be improved, the grass being cut down, and the side of the hill terraced and planted with shrubs. The main entrance to the Recreation Grounds will be removed to the western side of the hill entrance to the sports ground being obtained where the iron gates now stand and at two or three other spots. The road frontage will be fenced with a seven or eight foot iron fence, which we venture to hope will be concealed later on by a live hedge and a ting fence, probably of strong wire netting, will be erected all round the sports ground and terraces, so that there may be no trouble in collecting admission charges. The sports ground will, in fact, be distinct from the rest of the grounds with separate structures. Dressing rooms and a pavilion are proposed to be built, if funds permit, in the south-eastern corner.

TH, DECEMBER 21, 1905
DONATION TO SPORTS GROUND

The exceedingly handsome donation of £100 has been subscribed by the Licensed Victuallers' Association towards the fund for improving the Recreation Ground. The Secretary of the Recreation Sports Committee notifies that the donations to date total £197 1s 6d, which is an encouraging start. The names of subscribers will be acknowledged shortly.

1906

This year was all about fundraising for the Sports Ground development. Unfortunately, it had an adverse effect on the ability of the Recreation Ground Board to raise money for the rest of the grounds.

The plan for the Sports Ground development was to make the pitch bigger to the south and east and raise the level of the pitch substantially. Some of the fill would come from removing the existing terraces and cutting in new ones but this would not be sufficient. Coincidentally the railway in town was being deviated from its route along Lemon Street to its present-day route parallel to Molesworth Street, requiring a deep cutting. The Sports Ground Committee got eight hundred yards of topsoil from that cutting which was carted to the ground using horse and dray.

Once the Sports Ground Committee took over the sports field it was deemed necessary to keep the public out for safety reasons. To do this would mean closing the Liardet Street Entrance, the main entrance to the park. This led to the need for a new entrance, which was made on Gilbert Street. One positive result was much better access to the waterfall near the entrance. At that time, the ground was not flat, and a lot of fill had to be put down.

Work on the Sports Ground started in September. The first job was to relocate any plants that were going to be in the way of the changes. Also, some trees needed to be felled and cut up for firewood. A motorised circular saw was used for this and became an attraction for onlookers. By the end of November the old terraces had gone.

A commemorative marble tablet listing deceased people who had made donations to the Recreation Ground was placed on the side of Cannon Hill (see picture over). The names on the tablet at the time of erection were: J. T. Davis, Martha King, Isabella Small, Peter Madsen and R. H. Govett. More names would be added when appropriate.

Waterfowl in the Recreation Ground were always in peril especially from roaming dogs. However, one Russian gander found itself offside with the Board for eating duck eggs and it ended up on a board member's dining table.

In September the Custodian of the Recreation Grounds reported to the Chairman the planting out of the following shrubs during the season just ended; kahikatea 130, totara 200, ramarama 40, rimu 30, hinau 8, maire 10, kowhai 20, manuka 50, tawhiri 20, tarata 15, rata 6, lacebark 10, koromiko 15, matipou 10, 16 sorts of miscellaneous native shrubs 151, tree ferns 40, paratawhiti fern 10, mountain toi 22, tree flax 12, flax various, 50, ribbon grass 15, Australian gums 10, arum lily, 130 clumps, also 2200 young native trees planted in the nurseries. The hinau tree at the Hughes Walk entry to the Children's Playground may be of the eight listed above.

Summary of significant events

- Sports Ground Committee take over the sports ground.
- Robert Govett bequest of £100.
- Plans for Sports Ground improvements drawn up by Messrs Sladden & Palmer. Estimate £1200.
- Commemorative tablet to deceased donors erected on south face of Cannon Hill.
- Earth from railway realignment cutting brought to sports ground for raising level of Sports Ground.
- Richard Seddon memorial service attracts 3000 people to the grounds.
- Trade exhibition and garden party fundraiser for sports ground under patronage of Lord Plunket.



To the left of the Band Rotunda can be seen the marble tablet erected to commemorate the deceased benefactors.
(private collection Alan Metcalfe)



Sir Richard Seddon's memorial Service. (*Auckland Weekly News*, June 28, 1906)



Lord Plunket inspecting veterans. (*Auckland Weekly News*, October 18, 1906)

The Ground Committee of the New Plymouth Recreation Ground intend to "bottle" the projected improvements along. At the weekly meeting on Wednesday night, attended by Messrs A. Humphries, A. George, H. Ford, G. Griffiths, Tribe, Perkins, and Hensley, a number of "wind-raising" schemes were hatched, and will be put into immediate operation. Subscription lists are to be opened through the papers; a deputation is to visit on Mr. H. Wait respecting arranging for the holding of a contest during Easter, and the committee Clerk is to be asked to arrange a swimming carnival in the Recreation Grounds in about a month, if possible. As the aims of the committee are to effect much needed improvements in the sports area, we hope that the response of the people to the various appeals may be whole-hearted, and thus enable the committee to make this beautiful resort what it surely might be from its natural environment and advantages, one of the best athletic grounds in the colony.

TH, FEBRUARY 21, 1906
MADSEN BEQUEST

The late Mr Peter Madsen, who passed away early on Tuesday morning, at his residence in Hinton-street, was a native of Denmark, and came to New Zealand in July, 1871. In 1874 he came with several other of his countrymen, landing at Wellington, the party was sent on to New Plymouth, and Madsen and three companions were early in August despatched into the bush to assist in felling the timber on the site of the present town of Inglewood. After a varied experience usual to pioneering in the back blocks, he settled down at Wairoa, and for fifteen years carried on farming on the model of farming in his native land. By sheer hard work and shrewd management Mr and Mrs Madsen won a competency for themselves, retiring a few years ago and living in Hinton-street. Peter Madsen was an excellent example of what a poor working man can do in this country. If he is industrious, home-able, and of true grit. When he joined the surveyors' camp in August, 1874, in the forests of the Man block, he had only threepence in cash to call his own, but by hard work, good management, and scrupulous honesty, he earned sufficient to enable him to and his days in unappreciative comfort, respected and admired by all who knew him. To show his esteem of the people of New Plymouth, from whom he had received many kind words and friendly actions, Mr Madsen has, we understand, left a small legacy to the Recreation Grounds Board free from any restrictions.

TH, FEBRUARY 9, 1906
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

At a meeting of the Recreation Sports Ground Committee held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening there was a large number of able guests present. Mr A. Humphries was in the chair. A great deal of business was gone into, and the chairman reported that the arrangements for the garden party, at which His Excellency Lord Plunket and party will attend, are nearly complete. A lawn table and Gipsy tent have been added to the programme, and, Mrs Cooper's pupils will give some fancy dancing. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the ladies and gentlemen who worked so hard to make the garden party such a success. The committee will meet at 7.30 next Wednesday. It is hoped every delegate will be present.

TH, FEBRUARY 16, 1906
FUNDRAISING

SACRED CONCERT
In aid of the Recreation
Sports Ground Fund.

MEMBERS of Choir and Ladies and Gentlemen willing to assist with the Chorus at the Sacred Concert to be given in the Theatre Royal on Good Friday are invited to meet in Whiteley Schoolroom on **TUESDAY NEXT, February 14th, at 8 p.m.**

Please bring copies of the Massiah, Elijah, and Holy City.

MR. G. H. WHITE,
Conductor.
MRS. J. S. HEMPTON,
Accompanist.

H. J. HORRIS,
Secy Secretary Concert Committee.

TH, FEBRUARY 20, 1906

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
—OF THE—
GRAND GARDEN PARTY

TO BE HELD
TO-MORROW,

WEDNESDAY, February 15th.

IN THE
RECREATION GROUNDS.

1.30 p.m.

Procession Form up in Regiment—up.
Garrison Band, Volunteers, Cadets, and Children in

POSTER & FANCY DRESS.

1.45 p.m.

Arrive at Recreation Grounds.

2 p.m.

Physical Drill Cadets.
Scarf Drill Central School Girls.

2.40 p.m.

Bayonet Fighting, Taranaki Rifles.
Garrison Band Selection.

3 p.m.

3 p.m.

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY
LORD PLUNKET
and Party.

Children will sing National Anthem.

3.15 p.m.

Presentation of Address by His Worship the Mayor.

3.45 p.m.

GRAND MARCH, POSTER and FANCY DRESS.

4 p.m.

Garrison will inspect Volunteers under Captain Starfish.

4.15 p.m.

GRAND SWIMMING SPORTS
in the Lake.

4.30 p.m.

Military Band in Rotunda.
Garrison Band on Sports Ground.
Delayed Train to Hawera 4.30 p.m.

GRAND EUCHRE PARTY IN THE MARQUEE IN THE GROUNDS,

at 8 p.m.

Admission: Ladies and Gents, 2/-
J. CLARKE,
Secretary.

TH, FEBRUARY 22, 1906
SUCCESSFUL GARDEN PARTY

The success which attended the Fest in the Recreation Grounds on Wednesday week have been most gratifying to the promoters, who had been working unobtrusively and unobtrusively for some time past to make the affair notable and enjoyable. The public exceeded their efforts in a whole-hearted manner, and there was an gathered mass of townspeople and visitors estimated at 2500 persons.

The grounds were clothed in their brightest and prettiest aspect, and delightful balmy weather contributed to the picturesque of the scene. Despite the regrettable absence of His Excellency the Governor, the fair was made a charming display of dress and fashion, the view on the lawns during the progress of the military evolutions being most effective. Light summer costumes were the order of the day all round, so that it is easy to say that the grounds looked so attractive.

The initial procession, to the rendezvous was a happy item. Headed by the Garrison Band and the Rifles and Guards' corps, the juveniles of the town and Primary Schools marched several hundred strong, and engaged in the novelty of the march through the streets with all the lightheartedness of youth.

Many of our leading firms seized on the opportunity for advertisement afforded by the poster and fancy dress display, but a lamentable lack of enterprise on the part of others is not being remembered could not but be remarked upon. Several of the designs were striking and original, and the children with con-

affairs judge were the sponsors of all eyes. The judging was entrusted to Mrs. W. H. Skinner and Misses Percy Smith and Alice Hampton, who had an eight task to differentiate between the competitors. A list arranged in most representation of T. Avery's stock, in particular being covered in a huge ledger, was awarded the poster prize for boys. Miss Eva Jury attracted considerable notice for her artistic costume representative of "Paul's hair and cordials," and she secured the prize among the girls. Design representative of Ward and Co.'s Popover and Westport reel, Zealandia shorts, and others were also well conceived. Master Leo Richards (son of Mr. F. Richards) was much admired in his "Napoleon" garb, a fine piece of work gratuitously made by Mr. G. Griffiths for the occasion. Master Leo was given the prize for the "best finished heavy dress" amongst the boys. Under the category of the most original costumes, Masters Ray and Gordon Parker (step sons of Mr. J. G. Smith) secured the awards, being in the grotesque shaggy dress of "Roberton Cruise and his men, Friday." The little fellows maintained the character very well indeed. Miss D. Dinklerfort in a dainty Japanese creation was awarded the prize for "best finished costume" amongst the girls. Misses Dora and Annie and Master Tom Hawke, who had a combined tasteful trade display, were adjudged to have the most original costumes. The Mayones (Mrs. H. Cook) presented the prizes on behalf of the committee.

The entrance to the grounds was very nicely decorated with palms, arrangements and floral tributes, the gates being surmounted with the inscription "Welcome."

On arrival at the scene the school children were lined up and sang the National Anthem, also saluting the flag, the Committee going through with the programme originally arranged.

An hour of the afternoon was an exhibition by the volunteers, who were in fully strong force. The officers present were—Lieut.-Col. E. N. Okey, Major Malone, Q.-M. Cook and Charles Brown, of the staff, Capt. F. W. Okey and Lieut. Bellingher (Taranaki Rifles), and Capt. Hill and Lieut. Messenger (Taranaki Guards). In consequence of not being required for the guard of honour, the troops were first marched to the recesses and put through attack and defence work, which was particularly well carried out. On their return to the Recreation Grounds, the squad from the Rifles, who won at the Auxiliary tournament, were put through physical and heavy exercises and bayonet drill by Colour-Serge. Armitage which elicited hearty applause from the spectators. Battalion movements followed, concluding with the march past.

The area near the lake was gay with marchers and refreshment stalls, where a thriving business was done.

Mr. Dandrill (President of the Committee) was in charge of the big afternoon tea, assisted by the members of the Committee. Mrs. O'Driscoll and Miss Ivy Cook presided at an ornate refreshment stall; and a fruit and lolly stall was managed by Mademoiselle G. Griffiths and Cheryl, Misses Jack, Bessie Clark and Annie Turner; Mrs. F. E. Clarke conducted the Gipsy tent, and the following ladies of the Committee also assisted—Mademoiselle J. Clarke, E. M. Smith, F. Richards, H. Furg, O'Brien, C. Clarke, M. Clarke, Misses Brewish, Stephanie (D), Carol, Julia (D), Hester, Harle, and Colson, whilst Mrs. Rowling, Misses Pappas and Beridge helped with the school children.

There was no lack of excellent music during the day, at tea hours; of the Garrison and Town Bands, while some "Strolling Minstrels" amused some amusement.

The lake was a great attraction all afternoon, and boating was indulged in with zest. The entertaining sports were novel and interesting, and were witnessed by a large throng. The spectators were Messrs. Eschwege and Loris, with Messrs. Poland and Scarborough as judges. Several events out of the ordinary run were witnessed, while Mr. Lisle's jockey "Morris Christy" art was watched with breathless interest. The performer was that in a sack, thrown into the lake from the jetty, and emerged in less than two minutes quite cool and collected. He made no explanation of "How it's done." Following are the results—

BOYS' SPRING BOARD DIVE.—Lang 1, Hythe 2. Nice competitors.

CROCODILE RACE (one competitor holding his partner's ankles)—Stok and Bennett 1, Dixon and J. Gibson 2. Five teams raced.

BOYS' HIGH DIVE.—Hythe 1, Lang 2. Five competitors.

150YDS. HANDBALL.—A. V. Stok, sec. 1, Bennett, sec. 2; Brown, 3 sec. 3. Won by three yards.

SPRING BOARD DIVE.—J. Ashbury 1, S. Bennett 2. Six competitors.

CIGAR AND UMBRELLA RACE (every umbrella) and smoke cigar while swimming)—A. V. Stok gave his rivals no chance from scratch, winning easily from J. Ashbury. Eight starters.

HIGH DIVE.—S. Bennett 1, G. Ballok 2. Five competitors.

The make party held in the big marquee at night, as a wind-up to the festivities, was very popular. After an interesting tournament Mademoiselle M. Clarke, Waike, Bentley, and Miss E. Cook had to play off for the ladies' prize. Mrs. Bentley labored during the game, and Mrs. Chelwell playing on her behalf secured the victory. Mr. Vincent Colbeck was the gentlemen's prize. The lucky winners were Miss L. Laws and Mr. H. F. Jones. Another party is to be held shortly.

Great credit is due to the Ladies' Committee for their untiring work in connection with the day's arrangements, also to the Sports Ground Committee, of whom Messrs. A. Hunsphries, J. Clarke (sec.), and G. Griffiths deserve special mention. The financial result of the Free is most gratifying. The receipts totalled £140, of which about £85 was taken at the gates.

About a score of members of the Veterans' Association assembled at the ground, but the absence of His Excellency the Governor robbed them of their interest in the proceedings. Capt. Stumlish (vice-president) delivered a few words to the members on the occasion.

TH, MARCH 9, 1906
PEA FOWL ATTACKED

£5 REWARD.

THE Board of Trustees of the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds will pay the above reward upon the conviction of the three young Scandinavians, with dogs and sticks, who, about 2 a.m. on Sunday morning last, endeavored to kill the Pea Fowl in the Grounds.

F. F. CONKILL,
Chairman.

TH, MARCH 12, 1906
ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS

The Recreation Grounds Board desires to acknowledge the receipt of annual subscriptions of 10/- each as under:—D. K. Morrison, Capt. Wilson, T. B. Colless, Dr. Whittier, H. Stok, Mr. Mrs. Marshall, Dr. Walker, G. M. Ashworth, Baker and Co., T. and J. Avery, A. B. Sykes, Auxiliary Board, J. B. Hoy, G. Bennett, J. H. Parker, S. B. White and Sons, Okey, Cook, and Arnold, Ltd., and J. Hollinger. Donations to the funds of the Board have been received from A. Hoad 2/-, G. W. Gossett 2/-, Robert Gossett 2/-, Mrs. Buchanan 2/- 1/-, Dr. Walker 2/-, H. H. H. and Charles 2/- 1/-, H. Roberts 10/. As the financial year of the Board closes on the 31st March, the Board will be pleased to acknowledge with kindly and subscriptions to the hon. secretary, Mr. E. B. Tribe, so as to return the book vouchers at 2/6.

TH, MARCH 13, 1906
FUNDRAISING

GRAND CONCERT

IN AID OF
Recreation Sports
Ground Improvements.
THEATRE ROYAL,
NEW PLYMOUTH,
GOOD FRIDAY NIGHT.

GOOD SINGING!
GOOD MUSIC!
GOOD EVERYTHING!

Special Engagement of—
Mr. Hamilton Hodges.

TDN, APRIL 11, 1906

STAR SPORTS.

TO BE HELD ON

ESTHER MONDAY,

APRIL 11th, 1906.

NEW PLYMOUTH RECREATION GROUNDS

HIG. FIELD.

Press Band to accompany.

THE POPULAR RANTER OUTING.

Admission to ground 1s.

RYHARD GILMOUR

Secretary.

TH, APRIL 26, 1906

ROBERT GOVETT BEQUEST

A HANDSOME BEQUEST.

We cannot pass over without remark the fact that the Recreation Grounds Board has received from Mr G. W. Govett the exceedingly handsome donation of £100 from the estate of his brother, the late Mr Robert Govett. This is but a fresh evidence of the kindly interest taken by this family in the cause of their adoption and birth, and of the generous assistance they have always given to worthy objects. It would be superfluous to add more than that the community, as well as the Recreation Grounds Board, will, we are sure, feel deeply grateful to Mr Govett and the members of his family for this and other generous actions and gifts.

TDN, MAY 1, 1906

SPORTS GROUND DONORS

THE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Appended we publish a list of donations, for the above laudable object, received to date. Over £200 is already in hand, and there is a number of promised donations of fairly large proportions waiting to be collected. Upwards of £800 is still required, and it is to be hoped the public will subscribe a fair proportion of the amount. All donations will be acknowledged in our columns. Work is to be started on the ground this month, the felling of the trees being the first operation.

LIST OF DONATIONS.

Entertainments, box collections, etc.,	145	19	2
Local and Victuallers Association	100	0	0
E. Cook	10	10	0
H. B. Lovell	10	0	0
Newton King	10	0	0
G. Bayly	10	0	0
Stanley Smith	10	0	0
Supporter	10	0	0
De Burgh Admrs Lodge	10	0	0
C. Remell	5	0	0

Dr Home	5	0	0
Dr Peckon	5	0	0
Dr Wylie	5	0	0
H. Bardsley	5	0	0
Star Football Club	5	0	0
Auckland Warehousemen's Association	3	3	0
A. Beeley	3	3	0
Chor, Son and Arnold	2	2	0
J. W. Ayles	1	1	0
Droderick and Kirby (Wellington)	1	1	0
F. Orbell	1	1	0
H. Linn	1	1	0
F. Wilson	1	1	0
F. T. Hollinger	1	1	0
Hadden and Palmer	1	1	0
H. C. Hughes	1	1	0
J. W. Quilliam	1	0	0
J. Murphy	1	0	0
C. C. Ward	1	0	0
H. Ford	1	0	0
A. E. Watkins	1	0	0
G. Gulderson	1	0	0
Mimes Humphreys	1	0	0
P. Jury	1	0	0
— Shuttleworth	1	0	0
— Shuttleworth	1	0	0
H. Tippins	1	0	0
T. P. Brookings	1	0	0
S. Percy Smith	1	0	0
R. Coburn	1	0	0
J. Roberts	10	0	0
F. W. Pagan	10	0	0
Martin & Co.	10	0	0
W. Ford	10	0	0
D. Penwarden	10	0	0
W. Perry	5	0	0
N. Perry	5	0	0
G. Hampton	5	0	0
G. Ward	5	0	0
D. Mulroney	5	0	0
Mr L.	2	0	0
Friend	2	0	0
Friend	2	0	0
Total to date	£401	19	8d

TH, MAY 3, 1906

RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At the annual meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board on Wednesday evening, Mr S. Percy Smith presided in the absence of the Chairman (Mr F. P. Corhill), the other members of the Board present being—Messrs G. W. Govett, W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, and D. Hutchins.

The statement of receipts and expenditure for that year ended 31st March, 1906, was read and adopted. The principal receipts received during the year were—Annual subscriptions, £25 5s 6d; special donations, £14 1s; donation box to grounds, £6 18s; percentage of gate takings, £27 12s 11d; Borough Council subsidy, £100; legacy from Mrs Small, £25; Architectural Society, £20 5s. Expenditure included—Wages, £165 17s 6d; building and ladies rooms, £22 12s 11d; fire

works, £20 5s 11d. The total expenditure was £206 5s 11d, and the over draft stands on March 31st £51 10s 6d.

The Tekepa Football Club was granted the use of the sports ground for matches, upon the usual terms, until such time as the alterations are commenced.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Recreation Sports Committee, drawing attention to the Board's former resolution re subsidizing plans of the proposed alterations to the sports ground before any work is commenced.

The accounts of subscriptions received through the various collecting boxes will be acknowledged monthly through the Press.

Mr S. Percy Smith was appointed overseer of the grounds for the coming period.

The Secretary reported a bank overdraft of £51 10s 6d at March 31st.

TDN, MAY 29, 1906

RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held last night. Present: Messrs F. P. Corhill (in the chair), S. Percy Smith, G. W. Govett, R. C. Hughes, W. A. Collis, W. L. Newman, Harris Ford, E. Dockrill and D. Hutchins.

The meeting was called more particularly to arrange terms for an agreement for lease of the sports ground. It was ultimately agreed to give the Sports Committee a lease of the ground for the first three years rent free, and for the next four years at a rental of £24 per annum. A renewal will be granted for a further term of seven years, subject to arbitration.

The following suggestions, to be embodied in the lease were proposed by the Board, and agreed to by Messrs A. Humphreys, J. Clarke, and F. C. Tribe, who acted as a deputation from the committee, subject to the endorsement of the committee at the next meeting. In any alteration of the grounds, the general natural appearance must not be interfered with; that no trees or shrubs shall be cut down or removed except those marked by the Board; the grounds shall not be used on Sunday for any purpose whatever without the sanction of the Board in writing; the ground to be free to the public except when sports or other entertainments are being held; no hoardings or advertising placards will be permitted without the consent of the Board; no sewerage to be drained into the lakes or streams; no alcoholic liquor to be sold on the ground; the Board to have free use of the grounds for entertainments on two days in the year for the benefit of the funds of the Board; the sports ground to be enclosed and independent entrance provided; Plans of the proposed alterations to the grounds and of all sections to be first approved by the Board; in the discussion, the wish was evident that all athletic clubs in the district should be represented at the meeting to finally sign the agreement. The Board decided to close the tea-room in the Recreation grounds at the end of this month.

TH, MAY 21, 1906
FUNDRAISING

THEATRE ROYAL
THURSDAY, June 21st.

CONCERT,
To be followed by a
CARD TOURNAMENT.

In aid of the
RECREATION SPORTS GROUND.

Particulars later.

1907

TDN, JUNE 1, 1906
SPORTS GROUND PITCH A

NEW PLYMOUTH MATCHES.

Those who attended at the Recreation Grounds on Thursday afternoon in the expectation of seeing some exciting and marvellous had no reason to complain of the bill-of-fare provided. But to the people who have not yet become accustomed to the quagmire in which the various teams meet from week to week, and who thought there was a chance of a fair exposition of the national game, as is given by most of the junior teams under ordinary conditions, had a severe disappointment. The ground was unfit for football, though this statement, of course, is utterly inadequate to convey any idea of the depth of water and slush through which the players had to forge their way. Under the circumstances, of course, good football was out of the question. The ball was as greasy as could be, and it was a matter of great difficulty to pick up the ball, and almost an impossible feat to hold it. There was only a small attendance of spectators.

TH, JUNE 7, 1906
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

This Board met at the office of the secretary (Mr. R. H. Tribe) on Wednesday evening. Present: Messrs P. P. Corbitt (Chairman), G. W. Stewart, S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, W. A. Collie, E. Boderill and B. Hatcher.

The annual report of the Chairman, which will be published in the course of a few days, was read.

The recent plans of ground on the Brooklands Road will be offered for lease.

In consequence of handing over the sports ground to a representative athletic committee, for the purpose of having the scheme of improvements carried out, the Board will feel the pinch for funds for a few years. Accordingly a circular is to be issued inviting subscribers at 10/- per annum.

As the result of correspondence made to the Board, it was decided to enforce the by-laws relating to cycling in the Grounds and the exclusion of dogs. The staff will take the names of cyclists. The custodian and his assistants were authorized to shoot any dogs found roosting the birds.

The Board decided to continue the formation of a footpath on the south-western side of the lake, towards Brooklands.

The Secretary notified the Board that the tea rooms were now closed, but that the ladies' room was still available for the use of lady visitors.

The grounds were played in the hands of Mr. S. Percy Smith for the evening period.

TH, JUNE 14, 1906
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1905

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1906.

During the past year work in the grounds has gone on steadily, and considerable improvements have been effected in the way of new paths and the planting out of a large number of native shrubs. It is greatly to be regretted that no such time which might be better employed has to be devoted each year to the keeping down of fern and weeds. If the Board could afford it, more vigorous efforts would be made to do this necessary work in a thorough manner with the aid of supplementary labour, and thus in the course of a few years the growth of noxious weeds would cease to be a source of annual expense as it now the same. This work to be desired conservation would enable the permanent staff to not only maintain existing work in a state of thorough efficiency, but would also result of its undertaking the care of flowering shrubs and hardy perennials which would brighten the grounds and add to their attractiveness. But we cannot make bricks without straw, and under existing conditions it takes us all our time to keep going on the lines which have made our beautiful grounds what it is. The published accounts of the Board show that our total income was £604 17/8, while expenditure amounted to £295 5/11, leaving a sum of £309, realized in England in part payment of freecoats which are sent on their way. To make such work we had to contribute at the Bank to the amount of £81 10/6, for which certain individual members of the Board are personally liable. Annual subscriptions during the year amounted to only £17 3/8, and this falling off must be in some degree attributed to the fact that a number of our most constant supporters are also interested in the efforts which are now being made to improve the sports ground, and they find it necessary to confine their donations to one of the two admittedly deserving objects. There can be little doubt that any usual source of income will be affected for many years to come by the work which is in contemplation by our athletic friends, and we must therefore endeavour to obtain necessary help from our quarters.

From the object of meeting the Sports Committee to carry out the improvements, which they are undertaking with such good will, we have agreed to give them the use of the sports ground area for three years free of rent, and for a further term of four years at the nominal rental of £255 per annum, thus ensuring ourselves of a somewhat important source of income. Of course, both they and we hope that in time to come the improved sports ground will not only be far and away the best of its kind in the colonies, but that it will become a valuable source of revenue to our Board as well as providing amusement for the people.

During the evening year we shall no doubt be able to give by several events, including a fête on the King's Birthday and a series of pyrotechnical displays of a unique character such as have not hitherto been seen in the colony.

Through the energy of our Secretary, Mr. Tribe, a ladies' room has been erected in a retired position in the Grounds, and we believe that this will be much appreciated by those for whom it has been provided. This room it has been mainly used as a sitting-room, but this is not the purpose for which it was designed, and for the future it will always be available for the convenience of lady visitors and particularly those accompanied by children. Fresh arrangements will be made for the conduct of the tea room next season, and the Board hopes that this feature of our system will be well patronized by the public.

Permission has been given Mr. White to ply for hire on the large lake, and his boat has already given pleasure to many of our country visitors.

An exchange has been made with the Wellington Acclimatization Society, who have sent us three pairs of the English mallard duck for an equal number of native grey ducks, bred in the Grounds. We are open to receive donations of other birds, reptiles and other plants or seeds, or anything else calculated to make the grounds more interesting.

At the request of the Committee of the Taranaki Field Club one of the gullies in the corner of the sports ground has been set apart for the establishment (by its members) of an arboretum of rare and typical native plants and shrubs. Such a collection will probably be unique in New Zealand.

We gratefully acknowledge gifts of plants from his Honour Mr. Robert Stout, Mr. G. Jones (GARDNER), Miss Wood, and other kind friends, and we have also to thank Mr. T. G. Kealey, F.N.S.A., for his generous services as auditor.

Observation shows that comparatively few of our own sportsfolk have any idea of the value of paths constructed within the grounds during the past four or five years, and we had more than the explanation of them will delight those who make themselves acquainted with their location. It is a singular fact that strangers spending half a day in our grounds come away knowing more about them than the majority of our old sportsmen do.—P. P. CORBITT, Chairman.

TDN, JUNE 22, 1906
SEDDON MEMORIAL

There was an assemblage of fully three thousand people in the Recreation Grounds on Thursday afternoon, when a united memorial service was held. The band rotunda was occupied by the ministers of religion and representatives of public and quasi-public institutions, and was surrounded by the ranks of the Taranaki Rifles, Taranaki Guards, the Central School and West End School Cadets, the New Plymouth Fire Brigade, pupils of the Central School, and the Taranaki Garrison Band, who had marched in procession to the grounds.

TH, JUNE 30, 1906
TENDER FOR CARTING SOIL

Through the instrumentality of Mr F. P. Carhill, the recreation sports ground committee has secured the soil from the railway deviation works. Tenders are invited for the carting of the soil, to close on Tuesday.

TDN, JULY 2, 1906
TENDER FOR CARTING SOIL

TENDERS will be received up to 3 p.m. on **TUESDAY, 3rd July**, for carting about 100 cubic yards soil. For particulars apply,
SLADDEN AND PALMER,
Engineers.
A. I. Humphries,
Chairman Recreation Sports Ground Committee.

TH, JULY 5, 1906
SOIL CARTING TENDER AWARDED

The following were the tenders received for carting earth to the Recreation Ground—G. Kyrsgaard, 1/ per yard (accepted); T. and R. Parkie, 1/3; J. Montefiore, 1/3; E. Sola, 1/3; Nishi and White, 1/9; and R. Hagley, 1/11.

TH, JULY 12, 1906
CALL TO REMOVE WIGGINS MEMORIAL

THAT RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE.
To the Editor.

Sir,—Can anything be done to induce the Board to remove that wretched stone from our Recreation Grounds? How the members of the Board ever came to sanction its being placed there is surprising. Everyone agrees that it is altogether out of place. If it was a record of some public manifestation in the town or country, or a reminder of some heroic deed, or a memento of some noble spirit, there might be some chance of excuse for it being there; but as there is none, why should it be left to disfigure the grounds—
Yours, etc.

TH, JULY 23, 1906

A Dance

Will be held in the
THEATRE ROYAL

—ON—
THURSDAY, August 9th.

Under the patronage of the Taranaki Rugby Union.

Proceeds in aid of the Recreation Grounds Improvement Fund.

J. CLARKE,
Hon. Sec.

TH, JULY 25, 1906
HANDOVER OF SPORTS GROUND

The sports arena of the Recreation Ground is to be handed over to the representative sports committee as from August 1st. The plans of the improvements have been approved by the parent Board, and the work will probably be put up hand at once. The Sports Committee has been granted permission to erect on the top of the proposed fence in Filling-street a canvas advertising sheet, to be used on the sports days only.

The Recreation Ground Board's appeal for annual subscriptions, to compensate for the loss of revenue on the sports ground, has met with a disappointing response. The following list has, however, been appreciatively received, and other names will be welcome—Captains Wilson, Messrs W. Fraser, A. B. Sykes, A. E. Snowball, Arch, Clark and Sons, D. O'Connor, T. Hancock, T. Sola, W. P. Brooking, Rev. Capwell, Miss Humphries, and the Messrs Evans.

TDN, JULY 25, 1906
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

At the last meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board, there were present Messrs F. P. Carhill (chairman), G. W. Garrett, W. L. Newman, H. Ford, H. C. Hughes, and D. Hutchins.

The Sports Committee and the Board in reference to the proposed alterations to the grounds, and submitted plans, which were approved.

A committee, consisting of Messrs S. Percy-Smith, G. W. Garrett and W. Newman will visit the site of the proposed new entrance to the grounds from Gilbert street, and decide upon what tree planting is necessary.

The Sports Committee asked for several amendments to be inserted with their agreement with the Board, to which the Board agreed. The amendments consisted of an addition to clause 6, that "nothing in this clause shall give anyone the right to use the ground playing ground without the consent of the sports Committee. Clause 6 reads: "The sports ground to be free to the public except when sports or other entertainments are being held."

The Sports Committee was granted permission to erect on the top of the proposed fence in Filling street a canvas advertising sheet, to be used on the day of sports only.

TH, JULY 26, 1906
GILBERT STREET ENTRANCE

By the proposed alterations to the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds, a new entrance is to be provided from Gilbert street. The new twelve-foot pathway leading from the street will abut on the lower lake, and cut through a piece of ground that will lend itself splendidly to beautification by tree planting, and will probably have the effect of inducing more people to visit the pretty waterfall in that part of the ground.

TH, JULY 26, 1906
PLANTS MOVED FROM SPORTS GROUND

The Board's workmen are now engaged in shifting the tree-trees and shrubs of value to the Recreation Grounds, from that portion of the ground that is to be demolished or cut away in connection with the improvement scheme.

The top soil from the railway ditches, two works is now being carted into Filling street, adjoining the Recreation Grounds, and will be stored for future requirements in the improvements to the sports ground.

While one of the drays was engaged in the Filling street and on Wednesday afternoon with a load of top-soil for the Recreation Grounds improvements the wheels broke, and the dray was laid aside for the remainder of the day.

TH, AUGUST 11, 1906
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Board was held at the office of the Secretary, Egmont-st. on Monday last. Present: Mr F. P. Carhill (chairman), Messrs G. W. Garrett, S. Percy-Smith, W. L. Newman, H. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, E. Duckhill, and D. Hutchins.

Mr Smith reported that about 500 native trees had been planted in the grounds.

The committee appointed to consider the site of the proposed new entrance to the grounds from Gilbert-st. reported favourably, and recommended that the planting of native trees on each side be held over until next season, and that the grounds be ploughed about February.

The Board being about to meet a motion tabled in the grounds with the names of deceased benefactors carried thereon, considered what should be the necessary qualifications. It was that the names of deceased benefactors be carried on the tablet for the following reasons:—1. Distinguished service to the Grounds; 2. Donations during 10, or by legacy of not less than £25 in one time; 3. Membership on the Board for 10 years and upwards.

The question of flagging a site for the tablet was left to the Tablet Committee.

It was resolved, that in the opinion of this Board, Mr F. E. Skinner has given distinguished service.

**TH, AUGUST 22, 1906
COMMEMORATIVE TABLET
INSTALLED**

The tablet in the memory of the annual luncheon to the Recreation Grounds was placed in position on Thursday, August 16, 1906, and H. Perry Smith, members of the Board, attending. It is a marble tablet, carried to represent an open book, upon the pages of which the names of luncheoners are inscribed. It is fixed on a concrete base on the side of the hill facing the lake, just behind the band stands. So far the book contains the names of the following deceased luncheoners:—J. T. Davis, Martha King, Isabella Small, Peter Macken, and E. H. Garrett, lots of room being left for future contributors. The material is the work of Mr. Short, sculptural expert, and has been well received.

**TDN, AUGUST 30, 1906
BUCKING BRONCO FOR FETE**

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee have secured the services of an American pony for their function on October 10. This pony is a ride will be charged, and 5 will be donated to anyone able to ride the course.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1906
TENDER FOR TREE REMOVAL**

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee has accepted Mr. U. Kingdon's tender for cutting trees at the grounds. Tenders for the earthwork contracts are to be called next week, and will be pushed on as speedily as possible. It is hoped to have the new grounds ready for next year's matches.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 18, 1906
FUNDRAISING**

**GREAT LABOUR DAY
Demonstration**

WEDNESDAY, 10th October
In aid of the Recreation Sports Ground

(Under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor.)

Red Letter Day for Taranaki.

Massive Procession of Trade and Working Exhibits through the streets of New Plymouth.

Amateurs of all descriptions will be held in the Recreation Ground, commencing at 12 noon.

Luncheon and Afternoon Tea Stalls on the Ground.
Bands in attendance.

ADMISSION 1s. Children not taking part in the procession, 6d.
J. CLARKE,
Hon. Sec.

Recreation Sports Ground.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 18, 1906
TENDER TO ENLARGE SPORTS
GROUND**

TO CONTRACTORS.

TENDERS will be received at the office of Messrs Seddon & Palmer up till 4 p.m. on **TUESDAY**, 22nd September, for enlarging the Recreation Sports Ground. Plans and specifications can be seen at the office of the engineers.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 21, 1906
CIRCULAR SAW FOR TREE CUTTING**

There were many visitors to the Recreation Ground on Thursday, and popular attention was concentrated on the sports ground improvement work. The cutting of trees on the terrace has been pushed forward, and a portable engine works a circular saw at a great rate, the result being loads of good firewood which should sell very readily. When the improvements are completed, the seating accommodation for spectators should be much greater than it was.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 25, 1906
GANDER ENDS UP ON PLATE**

Owing to the noisy and greedy habits of the Roesch gander on the Recreation Ground's lake, the Board some time ago decided, unless the bird mended his ways, to dispose with his services. As the gander man was caught in the act of "proffing" eggs in a duck's nest on Monday, the warrant for execution was issued and duly given effect to, the fine carcass being conveyed to the residence of a member of the Board.

**TH, SEPTEMBER 28, 1906
TREE PLANTING LIST**

The Custodian of the Recreation Grounds has reported to the Chairman the planting out of the following trees and shrubs during the summer just ended:—Kahikatea 100, Totara 200, Kauri 40, Hinu 20, Hinu 8, Maire 10, Kowhai 20, Manuka 20, Tawhai 20, Parata 15, Bata 6, Larch 10, Kauri 18, Matipo 10, Miscellaneous native shrubs, 10 ferns, 101, Tree Fern 40, Paratavakhi Fern 10, Mountain Tot 20, Tree Flax 12, Flax, various, 20, Ribbon Grass 15, Australian Grass 10, Arca Lily (bunch) 100; also 2000 young native trees planted in the nurseries.

**TH, OCTOBER 8, 1906
EXTRAORDINARY FIREWORK**

The Recreation Grounds Board have secured a great rocket for the fireworks display which takes place on the night of the Garden Party, October 10th. This rocket is one of the latest productions from the largest works in the Old Country, and goes with such a force that it will carry a rain 2000 feet into the air. The secretary of the Board will be

pleased to receive applications from anyone wishing to be loaned an amount, and the Rec. Sports Committee have kindly consented to lend the rope which will be used for the tug-of-war, so that any person wishing the amount can attach himself to the rocket without any fear of a break on the way up, but he must be careful to fall into the lake in descending, as falling on the ground might cause a severe shelling. This particular rocket will be fired at 9 p.m. and it will only cost 1s at the gate for the opportunity of having a conversation with the man in the moon.

**TH, OCTOBER 9, 1906
FUNDRAISING**

FIREWORKS.

GRAND DISPLAY

in the

RECREATION GROUNDS

Wednesday Night,

10th OCTOBER.

In aid of the funds of the RECREATION GROUNDS BOARD

THE MILITARY BAND, under the leadership of Mr. Geo. Garry, will play numerous gems from various towns.

**GRAND
GARDEN PARTY**

LABOUR DAY.

WEDNESDAY, 10th OCTOBER

In aid of the Recreation Sports Ground.

(Under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor.)

**RED LETTER DAY FOR
TARANAKI.**

Massive Procession of Trade and Working Exhibits through the streets of New Plymouth.

Amateurs of All Descriptions will be held in the Recreation Ground, commencing at 12 noon.

Luncheon and Afternoon Tea Stalls on the Ground.

Bands in attendance.

ADMISSION, 1s. Children not taking part in the procession, 6d.

J. CLARKE,
Hon. Sec.
Recreation Sports Ground.

RECREATION GROUND FETE
A HUGE SUCCESS

The garden party held on Wednesday afternoon in aid of the Recreation Sports Ground improvement was in every way a distinct success. The day was perfect and the arrangements as nearly as it is possible in the hands of a fully experienced, energetic and hard-working committee. The entrance to the grounds was arched with flags, and fringed with blue, a "Welcome" and the gilded Royal Arms standing out in relief. As soon as the people had started to pour into the grounds, and the refreshment house staffs knew no rest from their busy task. The Military Band marched in early in the afternoon, but while His Excellency the Governor was present they gave place to the Garrison Band, afterwards proceeding with a delightful programme. Shortly after half-past one a column of the Garrison Band headed a procession of volunteers and school children to the grounds. The volunteers, in full dress, members of the two headquarters companies under Captain Mills, formed on the outer terrace, as a guard of honour awaiting the arrival of His Excellency the Governor. The band took up its position in front of the place arranged for the reception of Lord Plunket, and the school children formed in line a little distance in front of the terrace. The volunteers, under Captain Standish, marched in straight, and took up their position in four lines at right angles to the terrace, their appearance evoking rounds of applause from the assembly, a New Plymouth crowd always being proud to show respect to the soldiers of former days. The First End school children gave a splendid exhibition of club swinging. Mrs. Downing supervising. Then the Fifth school girls stepped up, and gave a similar display. Later in the afternoon Mr Taylor's class of Central school girls went through several evolutions and finished exercises.

The programme for the afternoon comprised a couple of foot races, a tug-of-war, horse-racing competition, and a number of novel items. In most cases the maximum of fun was aimed at, and the crowd of about five or four thousand people should have enjoyed, and they evidently did enjoy, past after past of laughter. The grounds were a picture, despite the work of felling trees and other operations connected with the temporary spoliation necessary to the slab-work improvement of the grounds now under way. This was the first big public function of the year, and the warmth and brightness of the day entered the bodies in all their array of the new season's white, giving the walks and terraces a warmth of colour thus showed to pretty effect against the darker background of green.

His Excellency the Governor arrived on the grounds in the afternoon, and after the official functions, which he reported cheerfully, inspected the grounds, and in company with the reception committee and the chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, watched the proceedings.

The refreshment stalls, as previously noted, did roaring business, and the management of these was without the slightest shadow of doubt a record in promptness and regularity, all the wheels of the big machine seeming to work well in harmony. The ladies' committee was just as successful as that which governed the sports and other outdoor attractions, all of whom were real Trojans for work. No one will feel offended if Messrs Arthur Humphreys and James Clarke are singled out for special mention. Six teams entered for the tug-of-war, representing the New Plymouth Fire Brigade, Star Football Club, Taranaki Rifles, Taranaki Guards, Egmont Lodge, I.O.G.T., and the railway deviation workers. The "division" beat Stars, and the former had an easy pull against the latter. The Guards beat the Rifles. In the second round the deviation beat the I.O.G.T.'s, and the former beat the Guards. The final pull between the fire brigade and deviation teams was a soft thing for the former, who beat their opponents with a rather big margin. The winners were Lieut. Bevan, Foreman Clark, Foreman Prior, Hurst, and Hardwick, and Captain Way; Captain Beltinger, coach. Great amusement was caused by the appearance of a Hoppitian (an Irish Mr. Lint's gymnastic class, who challenged the fire brigade to a pull. As a preliminary, in order to "get matters up," the little chaps balanced in the tight hand a member but fell right, unless its figure had weighed 200 lb. The leader of the team, a sturdy little fellow of 41 years, raised this supposedly stuporous weight above his head. The big ends of the handball looked suspiciously like hot boxes, but they may have been the real Mac Kay for the little chaps "made no use" of the former. The championship was productive of some amusement and much good-natured merriment in the capture and execution of the marauding Mandy who had dared to attack a British camp. An item that was full of mirth-provoking interest was the fancy dress hockey match, the players appearing in all sorts of queer girth. Great interest was manifested in the boxing competition, the details of which had been left in the hands of Mr. Webster, secretary of the North Taranaki Hunt Club. Mr. W. Bushby's opponent took the former in both styles, and the rider was presented with a medal by His Excellency the Governor. Miss May only was placed second, and Mr. W. Stoney third. Other competitors were Messrs Bennett and Stockman and Messrs Price, John, Stockman's

stunt failed to rise to the first jump and crashed to the ground, but the rider miraculously escaped injury. The other race, in which five teams competed, was won by Messrs E. Ward, P. Jupp, R. Ward, and P. Hobbson. The High School Boys' race called "Startin' a Field" The "American Boy" caused much amusement, and many tumbles as rider after rider failed to ride him. The committee will receive the reward offered to the person who could successfully ride the horse. The Garrison Band played several selections in the course of the afternoon, including "Gone with the Wind," a gem. The grand march was very cleverly executed. The whole garden party, from start to finish, was an unqualified success, and is reported to have raised over twenty odd £100.

TH, OCTOBER 15, 1906
SPORTS GROUND UPDATE

THE SPORTS AREA.

WORK TO BE DONE BY DAY
LABOUR.

The Recreation Grounds Sports Committee has called a notice for the week which it is proposed to carry out on the sports ground at the Recreation Grounds, but as all the numbers received were too high it has previously been decided that the work will be done by the Committee by day labour. On Wednesday next it is proposed to appoint an overseer, and it is expected that work will be commenced about Monday week. A tender was let for cutting timber on the hills where new terraces are to be made, and the hills have now been all cleared off and it is expected that the first work undertaken will be the construction of the new entrance road.

A Herald reporter had a look at the plans and specifications for the work recently, and found that the north drain construction for terraces is to be placed on the sports ground, which is to be raised four feet above its present level. When finished it will have a fall of eighteen inches from the centre to the sides.

The drainage scheme is a comprehensive one. The engineers rely mainly on an open drain which is to run completely round the ground to keep it dry, but other measures will be taken. At present there is a drain somewhere in the ground. It is thought to be imperative, but owing to the expense it will not be taken up except for a portion from the side of the ground to the lake. The inlet end of this section is to be raised fifteen inches, the outlet requiring as at present. The bottom of the open drain at this point will be on the same level as the inlet of the drain to the lake, but on the other side of the ground it will be three feet below the level of the raised ground. Connection with the outlet to the lake will be a six-inch drain, sweeping from the west end of the front boundary straight to the north corner, and thence across to the outlet. In addition,

these will be done by track field lines laid from south to west thirty feet apart two feet below the surface. These measures ought to ensure a dry springy turf.

When the alterations are completed there will be five terraces on the eastern side, five on the western side and seven to the south; and it is anticipated that the ground will then easily accommodate thirty thousand spectators.

The new entrance road is to run from the post-office to Gilbert-street and the roadway will be forty-two feet wide.

The new plan provides that the ground shall be in the form of an oval, and this will be an improvement on the irregular shape it now has.

A communication greatly to be desired will be the erection of a corrugated iron fence along the front boundary, which will obviate the use of the unbecomingly screen at present used to checkmate the holders of "outside tickets." Eight hundred yards of black earth have been obtained from the railway deviation works for top-dressing the ground. They have been carried up, and are now ready for use.

The proposed improvements will give New Plymouth as good a sports ground as could be found anywhere; but the work must be done at once—when it is done the ground will rapidly pay for itself and the benefits to the whole town resulting from the holding of important sports meetings (which are too obvious to need repetition) should be sufficient reason to cause every individual citizen to do the utmost in his power to accelerate the completion of the improvements anticipated.

TH, NOVEMBER 10, 1906 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Board was held on Wednesday evening at the office of the Chairman. Present: Messrs F. P. Corbitt (Chairman), C. W. Garrett, S. Percy Smith, H. C. Hughes, H. Wood, H. Hutchins, and the secretary. The following resolutions were passed:—

That the Librarian, reference to the grounds, and also the sports grounds be closed to the public while the alterations are being made, as there are many dangerous places.

That certain plots near the General boundary be filed.

That no meeting is to be held on the grounds by the new Gilbert-st. entrance will be permitted.

That the present terraces, as altered, raised, and, where possible, done away with.

That parents be warned against permitting their children to enter the sports ground while the improvements are going on.

The Secretary will attend to the new gates in Gilbert-st. to be provided by the Sports Committee.

The Game of the Road returns to be continued.

An application for about two and a half acres of the Board's reserve on the Broadlands Road was just entertained.

Any projects existing in the grounds in future will be prosecuted, and means of cheap local strapping will also be prosecuted.

TH, NOVEMBER 19, 1906 SPORTS GROUND UPDATE

Work at the Recreation Grounds is proceeding apace. The new entrance road has been completed, and the work of extending the sports-ground is being carried on expeditiously. The north and east terraces have been cut down and a third of the ground space has been covered with the spoil.

TH, DECEMBER 5, 1906 SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE

The annual report to be submitted to the first annual meeting of the Recreation Sports Grounds Committee and subscribers is to be held this evening is as follows:—

In presenting the first report and balance-sheet, I must congratulate the members of this committee on the splendid results obtained during the year. After meeting the Recreation Grounds Board on several occasions, satisfactory results were secured, and a large part of the sports ground was taken by this committee for a period of fifteen years. A scheme for the improvement of the ground was drawn up and put into the hands of Messrs Blodden and Palmer, who prepared plans and estimated the total cost at something like £1500. The work and means of raising the necessary capital were then gone into, and, thanks to the magnificent support received from the public and the great assistance rendered by the two local banks, a sum of about £250 has so far been raised by contributions and donations. Through the agency of the Taranaki Rugby Union and the assistance of twenty of the leading gentlemen of New Plymouth, the committee agreed to ask on previous terms, we are able to secure a loan of £400 from the New Zealand Fidelity Union at the low rate of 2 1/2 per cent. With the present work in hand and the public participation from the autumn and winter which commences at Christmas time, I hope that sufficient funds will have been raised to carry out the scheme in its entirety. Work was commenced on the 15th of October by day labour, and the progress to date seems to point to the fact that it was a judicious move on the part of the committee by deciding to carry out the work themselves and taking the responsibility upon themselves. It is anticipated that the ground will be soon done during February, and, given a favourable season, it is fully expected that early in the following summer the ground will be fit for sports of any description. It is not the intention to restrict the use of the ground for sports, but to combine the two, and to make the most picturesque athletic ground in the colony,

and one that the New Plymouth people will eventually be proud of. It was decided to issue non-members' tickets to anyone subscribing £10 or over. This ticket entitles the holder to all privileges of the ground for a period of seven years. Already ten local gentlemen have become entitled to this privilege. Reference to the balance-sheet will show the present financial state of the improvement fund. The balance in the bank is £511 0s 3d while the amount owed the facilities by £706 18s 3d. There are still uncollected donations amounting to £157, but these, I feel confident, can be collected when required, which will probably be within the next six weeks. The total receipts from all sources since the inception of the committee is £563 14s 11d, the expenditure (including £100 18s 2d under maintenance and £249 11s 9d already spent on the grounds) was £374 11s 9d, leaving a profit of £189 3s 2d. A good deal of the success is undoubtedly due to the enthusiastic manner in which the ladies have taken up this matter, without whose assistance it would be almost impossible to raise the necessary funds to carry out the scheme. Great assistance has also been obtained from the press. Finally there never has been anything in New Plymouth which has involved the same publicity for such trifling cost as has the scheme for the improvement of the Recreation Sports Ground.

TH, DECEMBER 7, 1906 RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The following members were present at a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board held at Mr. F. P. Corbitt's office on Thursday evening:—Messrs F. P. Corbitt (Chairman), C. W. Garrett, W. L. Newman, H. C. Hughes, H. Cook, D. Hutchins, and W. A. Gribb.

The Colonial Secretary advised that the Governor had appointed Mr. H. Cook a member of the Board.

It was decided to write applications for the use of the tea-rooms during the summer, the chairman to deal with applications.

Messrs Murray, Pritham, and others were thanked for their valuable assistance on the occasion of the fire in the grounds on the 29th November.

Members of the Borough Council were asked to bring to the notice of the Recreation Grounds Board that on the afternoon of 29th November it was found impossible to communicate with the fire brigade station, owing to there being no one in attendance; and that an alarm was rung on the east end bell and not responded to.

A display of fireworks will be held on the first night in February.

Mr. S. Percy Smith will be in charge of the research until next meeting of the Board.

1907

The Sports Ground Committee worked tirelessly during the year raising funds and developing the Sports Ground so that it could be ready for the official opening at the end of the year. The area of the field was increased by at least half a chain all round. The level of the pitch was raised by about 4 feet and new terraces were made.

Before the work began on the upgrade there were six terraces which could accommodate 500 people, after improvements this increased to 22 terraces accommodating around 2000 spectators. A promenade running around the ground at the bottom of the terraces was incorporated. The terraces were faced with turf, which was held in place using 25,000 wooden pegs, representing 2000 ft of timber.

A lot of seating was required for the new terraces and the Sports ground Committee asked the public to donate rows of seats. The call was answered by many people including, Mrs Woolfrey Bridge, Mrs F. L. Webster, Mrs Capel, Misses Humphries. Messrs, H. Okey, M.H.R, W. G. Malone, A. G. Sykes, B. Tippings, George George, and Mr Waugh.

Fourteen tons of soil was imported from Longburn, Manawatu for the cricket pitch and practice pitch. This was considered the best soil in the country for cricket pitches. The grass seed was donated by Tothill Ltd. of Invercargill, an agent of Sutton & Sons of Reading, England.

The first cricket match on the new pitch was on Boxing day 1907. Taranaki v Wanganui.

Another major development started during the year was establishing the Serpentine, the body of water between the Boatshed Bridge and the boundary with Brooklands. Prior to the lake being formed two streams entered the Recreation Ground, one on the west side of what is now Goodwin Dell, the other through the Maranui/Brooklands valley which formed the eastern boundary of the grounds. When the lake was formed the stream beyond the Boatshed Bridge was wider than the original stream but not very deep and full of raupo. Percy Smith oversaw the development of the Serpentine and did the surveying required to lay it out. Smith was a retired Surveyor-General of New Zealand. A lot of the labourers were Maori, some of them camped out with their families while employed on the development. On completion the crew were employed by Newton King to dig out the Brooklands lake near the Bowl of Brooklands. The board received a bequest of £100 from the estate of Mrs Broham, sister of C. W. Govett. This along with the bequest of her brother's (R. H. Govett) was used for the Serpentine construction.

The renaming of The Recreation Ground to something unique and befitting its reputation had been discussed many times since its inception. Renaming would prevent confusion between it and the Sports Ground and other recreation grounds in the area. Previous attempts to change its name had hit difficulties and been unsuccessful as an application had to be made through an MP. Percy Smith came up with the name Pukekura Park because the valley had been known by local Maori as Pukekura for hundreds of years. In Maori Pukekura means red hill. The name possibly refers to a hill at the southern end of the valley covered in rata with their beautiful red flowers. The name change went up for discussion at a board meeting and after considerable argument the vote was 5 – 4 in favour of change. The Sports Ground was still called the Recreation Ground Sports Ground.

It was reported that during the planting season, Mr Mace, the custodian of the Recreation Grounds, and his assistant had set out in permanent positions a total of 540 trees and shrubs, comprised of 250 in connection with the new entrance from Gilbert Street, 50 at the John Street entrance, 130 in the newly designed belt along the Carrington Street frontage and 110 in other parts of the grounds.

Mr Edgecombe (former curator) made an expedition to Raglan-Waitetuna country bringing back 390 trees, shrubs and other plants. These were transplanted in the Grounds, mostly in the nurseries. There were about 340 trees comprising of about twelve varieties not found in Taranaki, including some fine celery-topped pines, 45 ferns of new sorts and 5 native tois or grasses.

Mr R. Davies, a horticulturalist specialising in native shrubs offered to donate a complete collection of specimen shrubs on condition that he was employed to plant them. The Board agreed and allotted a piece of land on the upper level of the Carrington Road for the purpose.

Summary of significant events

- New terraces cut in the extended sports ground.
- Sports Ground terraces are turfed.
- Recreation Grounds Board passes resolution to change name to Pukekura Park.
- Work starts on extending main lake towards Brooklands (Serpentine).
- Bequest from Mrs Broham's estate.



Auckland Weekly News, 3rd October 1907



Auckland Weekly News, 12th December 1907

TH, FEBRUARY 5, 1907
SPORTS GROUND UPDATE

Work on the drainage system has been made with the work on the Recreation Grounds sports oval. The terraces between all rows, except the one near the gate, and the filling up of the ground is also nearly done. In a few days 4000 drain pipes will arrive, and shortly afterwards a commencement will be made with laying them. After this is done about six inches of brick earth will be put on the top of the ground; and when the weather breaks the grass seed will be sown.

TH, FEBRUARY 8, 1907

GREAT FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

RECREATION GROUNDS,
ON THE EVENING OF
WEDNESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY.

LAKE WILL BE ILLUMINATED

BAND IN ATTENDANCE

ADMISSION ONE SHILLING.

In Aid of the Funds of the
RECREATION GROUNDS BOARD

EDWARD H. FRICK,

754
Hon. Secretary.

TH, FEBRUARY 18, 1907
20,000 TROUT IN NURSERIES

There are at present 20,000 trout in the nurseries at the Recreation Ground.

TH, FEBRUARY 18, 1907
SPORTS GROUND UPDATE

The rough work at the Recreation Ground sports ground is now nearly completed, only the terraces near the Lisardet Street entrance being unfinished, and they will be completed in a few days. The surface of the sports ground is at present being levelled in preparation for the reception of the field drainage pipes, which are expected to arrive shortly.

TH, FEBRUARY 28, 1907
DRAIN PIPES ON SITE

The field-pipes for draining the Recreation Sports Ground have arrived on the ground.

TH, MARCH 7, 1907
GUM TREES FLOWERING

One of the features of the Recreation Grounds for months past has been the blossoming of the flowering red gum tree on the hill to the east of the boat shed. This tree has displayed a wealth of market flowers for over six months past, and now when its flowering season seems drawing to a close the place is being taken by another tree of the same kind, which is blossoming along the lower path-way just beyond the boat shed.

TH, MARCH 12, 1907
GRASS SEED DONATED

Through the medium of Mr. McHardy, manager of the National Bank, Mr. Corbitt, chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board, has received from Messrs. Tophill, Limited, of Invercargill (agents in the colony for Sutton & Sons), a generous offer to supply sufficient of Messrs. Sutton's well-known lawn grass mixture to sow the new sports ground, also the firm's book on "Lawns," which is the leading authority on this subject. Needless to state, the Board will very gratefully accept this handsome donation, and in due course hand the seed to the Sports Committee, who are carrying out the improvements. With seed of such pedigree the sward on the new ground ought to surpass anything of the kind in this country.

TH, MARCH 14, 1907
CUSTODIAN HAS ACCIDENT

Mr. R. Mace, the custodian of the Recreation Grounds, met with a painful accident on Tuesday afternoon last. When using a shaver he slipped, and almost covered his thumb. Dr. Popham put in six stitches and managed to save the thumb. The patient is making good progress.

TH, MARCH 19, 1907
DONATIONS

The Recreation Grounds Board desire to acknowledge receipt of a free accident policy covering their employees from Mr. D. McWilliam, agent for the Norwich and London Accident Insurance Co.; also donation of £1 10d from Mr. H. Weston, and subscriptions from Messrs T. D. Cohen and H. Ward, and timber from Mr. E. W. Board.

TH, MARCH 20, 1907
LAKE EXTENSION SUGGESTED

(To the Editor.)
Sir,—Being a subscriber to the funds of the Board, might I offer a suggestion, viz. that an effort should be made to raise sufficient funds by specially marked donations to extend the large lake at the top end in the direction of Mr. King's residence where the rushes are now growing? If this could be excavated to a depth of about three feet and a width of 50 feet, it would develop a healthy spot suited to water in the grounds. There would be no difficulty about water supply, as there is a running stream through the rushes. It is a pity we have not a Carnegie in the town, who, for a small outlay of about £200, would finance a contract to do this work.—I am, etc.,
DELTA.

TH, APRIL 4, 1907
SPORTS GROUND UPDATE

The alterations and improvements to the Recreation Sports Ground are now fast nearing completion, and they will undoubtedly rank among the finest and most pleasantly situated in the province. The Committee, with Mr. Humphries as chairman, and Mr. J. Clarke as secretary, have every reason to congratulate themselves on the result of their labours, which will be greatly ap-

preciated both by clubs and spectators. The accommodation provided for the latter has been considerably increased by the provision of new terraces on either side, and four additional ones at the far end from the Lisardet Street entrance. The playing area has also been increased by half a chain all round, so that, in other words, the width of the green has been enlarged by one chain. The ground has also been raised four feet and has a fall of eighteen inches from the centre in order to allow the water to run off more freely. An up-to-date system of drainage has been introduced, 4000 drain pipes having been laid, and there is also a large drain encircling the pitch. In a few days the Committee are expecting a shipment of about fourteen tons of special soil from South for the cricket pitch and practice pitches. Regarding the seed, Messrs Tophill and Co., of Invercargill, kindly made the Committee an offer of seed, which was accepted, and advice has been received that this is now on its way. This will be a special mixture seeing that the grounds are to be utilized for the playing of football as well as cricket. It is anticipated that the ground will be ready for use for next season's cricket. The Committee, by undertaking the work themselves, have effected a saving of about £200 on the contract price of £300 and a word of praise is due to the foreman, Mr. A. Dale, for the capable manner in which he has supervised the work—not at all an easy task. The Committee are now considering the question of tiring the terraces or some more economic method of covering their bareness, by being favourably commented on.

TH, APRIL 15, 1907
TOPSOIL FOR SPORTS GROUND

The top soil at the Recreation Reserve sports ground has been laid out ready for sowing. The Longbush soil specially acquired for the cricket pitch—four truck loads—arrived at the ground last week and has been laid in position. The soil from Longbush is considered by some experts to be as good for a cricket surface as that from Bulli (N.S.W.). It has been used on the Wanganui pitch, which is recognized as one of the best in the colony. The seed for the sports ground, procured by an Invercargill firm, is expected to arrive here to-morrow. Sowing will begin as soon as possible after its arrival. The next work to be undertaken at the ground is the tiring of the first terrace. Permission has been received from the Carrington Road Board to take turf from an unformed road off Carrington Road. This turf is very clean.

TH, APRIL 19, 1907
DONATIONS

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee wish to thank Mr. H. H. Solo for free labour repairing tools during the progress of work on the ground.

**TH, APRIL 23, 1907
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Board was held at the office of the Secretary on Friday, 23rd inst. Present: Messrs F. P. Cockill (Chairman), C. W. Govett, S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, R. C. Dighton, Harris Ford, E. Dookhill, and W. A. Collis.

The Secretary read the annual statement of receipts and expenditure, duly audited, for the year ended 31st March, 1907, which was adopted.

An application for entering on the Tax Return for next season was held over until a future meeting.

The question of erecting a rustic bench in the ground will be considered by the Board on their next visit to the Ground.

The Secretary was instructed to get up notice-bands at the entrance to the Ground that cyclists are prohibited and that a reward of £1 will be paid on conviction of any person cycling in the Grounds.

That the custodian take the number on the collar of any dog found in the Ground with a view to prosecution of the owner.

An application to put a motor boat on the lake was held over.

Mr S. Percy Smith was proposed to accept the position of Chairman of the Board for ensuing year, but regretted he was unable to do so.

Mr F. P. Cockill was then proposed and re-elected Chairman for the coming year.

Mr Collis was appointed overseer for the month.

The Chairman submitted the following annual report:—

According to the wholesome custom which has prevailed for a good many years past, I briefly review the Board's doings during the past year. The trustees appointed by the Governor under the "Thameski Botanic Gardens Act, 1870," are comprised (in order of seniority) Messrs R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, F. P. Cockill, C. W. Govett, W. L. Newman, S. Percy Smith, F.R.S., and R. Cook, the two last-named having been members ever since the creation of the Board, while Mr Cook has recently been reappointed after a couple of years rest. With us have been associated, as representatives of the Borough Council, Messrs E. Dookhill (Mayor), W. A. Collis, and D. Haselden, and we have been glad to have the co-operation of these gentlemen in our work. During the year no special new work has been undertaken by the Board, and our staff has been fully employed in maintaining the Grounds in fair order and, with the aid of some casual labour, keeping down the ferns which still is a source of trouble and expense. A notable change has been effected within our domain by the practical realisation of the body known as "The Sports Ground Committee," which has taken in hand the transformation of the Sports Ground area, and is creating such a lawn and terraces as will probably be unique in these colonies—a work which was of course wholly beyond the scope or means of our Board. Our relations with these enthusiasts have been most cordial ever since the present Committee was constituted, and the "give and take" policy which nec-

essarily will, I am sure, be greatly to the advantage of all concerned. Through the efforts of Mr Dookhill and his mediators an enormous amount of solid work has been carried out in the shape of pipe-draining, the lawn (nearly four acres), cutting back into the slopes and forming new terraces and paths, covering the surface of the arena with good black loam, laying a cricket pitch with special clay brought from the Manawatu, and grassing out the whole with a lawn mixture specially prepared for our requirements and donated to this Board by the New Zealand representatives (Messrs Tuckhill, Limited, of Invercargill), of the well-known overseas Messrs Britton and Sons, of Reading. By the end of next summer we may hope to see a sports ground of which all concerned may be proud, though it will take our energetic friends several years to complete the work they have in view. The Tea Room in the Grounds has been open during a portion of the summer, and it is probable that arrangements will be made with the lady who has temporarily carried it on, to conduct it through the whole of next season, and so that its usefulness may be more fully appreciated. An effort is being made by the Board to utilize top soil, covering areas which are at present not only useless, but cause expense for keeping down noxious weeds. One of these is half an acre of gully in Gilbert St., opposite Mr Glasgow's house, and the other a piece of about 2½ acres broken ground (at an excellent building site) on the western side of the Old Carrington Road. If power can be obtained to level these on perpetual rights of removal it will be at once a relief to the Board and a source of some little revenue. Messrs Govett and Quilliam have kindly undertaken to prepare a Bill to be introduced during the coming session of Parliament. The thanks of the Board are due to a number of good friends for gifts of plants, etc., also to Mr Jas. Hawkins for a pair of powder which will shortly be brought in from the country, and to our colleagues, Mr Govett, for enabling us to place in the Grounds the marble tablet commemorative of benefactors who have assisted us in making the place what it is. Complaints having been made of the dangerous practice of some gullies who ride through the Grounds, and also of damage done by dogs, it has been determined to strictly enforce the by-laws relating to these offences. We do not propose to wait until some poor child has been killed or injured by a thoughtless rider.

Financial.—The fact that we close our year with a credit balance instead of the usual Bank overdraft (guaranteed by the trustees) arises solely from the timely and handsome donation of £100 from the executors of the late Mr H. H. Govett. The arrangement which we have made with the Sports Ground Committee not only deprives us of the revenue which has in the past come to us each year from the Athletic Clubs using the Ground, but has resulted in the loss of a good deal of help which has, naturally, been given to our sporting friends to assist them in their great undertaking. Of course we get the benefit of this indirectly, but mean-

time our income is appreciably lessened, and without the donation just referred to we could not have made ends meet. An appeal which we made by circular, inviting the public to become annual subscribers of 10s, resulted in only five responses, which was very disappointing. The only special effort in the way of entertainment which we have been able to make during the year was a display of fireworks on the evening of His Excellency the Governor's visit to New Plymouth last October, and this was arranged rather as a fitting complement to an excellent day programme (for the benefit of the Sports Ground) than in the expectation of substantial results. The Sports Committee has, however, promised to get up a lot of some kind for our benefit, and I have no doubt this will help us materially. Meanwhile the need of more annual subscribers continues, and other donations will be welcomed. I have omitted to make mention of the project of Mr Doughty and the Central School authorities to construct a good bathing place at the lower end of the lake,—this matter has been under consideration for some time, and will doubtless be an accomplished fact before next bathing season. In conclusion, I cannot too warmly express the indebtedness of the Board to our honorary secretary, Mr E. H. Tribe, for all that he has done for us during the year. His energy, foresight, and care in every particular have been invaluable, and have greatly assisted me in my duties as Chairman. The acknowledgments of the Board are also due to Mr T. O. Kelsey, F.N.R.A.A., our honorary auditor. It has not been our custom to thank each other for work done, but I may be permitted to say that we have been exceedingly fortunate in having on our Board a gentleman with special knowledge both of survey work and the metric scale who has been able and willing to give of his time and talents as our colleague Mr S. Percy Smith has done.

**TH, MAY 10, 1907
OFFER OF PLANT DONATION**

A gentleman has made an offer to the Recreation Ground to supply one each of every native plant, if the Board will prepare a list of ground suitable for the planting of same.

**TH, MAY 11, 1907
TERRACES TO BE FACED**

The Recreation Grounds Sports Ground Committee has decided to turf the faces of all the terraces. The work, which is estimated to cost about £85, has already been put in hand. The effect will be to permanently improve the appearance of the ground.

**TH, MAY 15, 1907
CARRINGTON RD ENTRANCE
WIDENED**

The recreation Ground Committee have had the Carrington Road entrance widened so as to admit of the free ingress of gocarts, an alteration which will be appreciated by mothers desirous of giving their offspring an airing in New Plymouth's chief beauty spot.

TH, MAY 25, 1907
TURF FOR TERRACES

The Recreation Ground Sports Ground Committee have been granted permission by the Carrington Road subpagees to remove turf from the road in front of Messrs. Hooker's and Saxton's property at Vogelsdown, provided they seed the ground afterwards.

TH, JUNE 3, 1907
SEATS FOR SPORTS GROUND

Some twenty rows of seats are wanted for the terraces at the Recreation Ground. Mr H. Tipton is the latest donor of a row. Mrs A. Cole and Mr George George have also assisted the formation of the ground in this manner. The Sports Ground Committee desires to thank them. Mr George has, in addition to presenting the seats, offered to erect any that are given by others.

TH, JUNE 21, 1907
SPORTS GROUND SEAT DONATION

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee wish to acknowledge receipt, with thanks, of donations of rows of seats from Mrs. Wainfrey Bridge, Mrs. F. L. Webster, Mrs. Capel, the Misses Humphries, and Mr. H. Okey, M.H.R.

TH, JUNE 24, 1907
PLANT DONATION

Further improvements of the Recreation Grounds were authorized at last meeting of the Board. On the Carrington Road frontage a 20ft. border is to be ploughed and planted this season. An offer of native shrubs from Mr H. Davies was accepted. Mr Davies, who is a specialist in this branch of horticulture, offered to donate a complete collection of specimen shrubs on condition that he should be employed to plant them. The Board agreed, and allotted a piece of land on the upper level of the Carrington Road for the purpose.

TH, JUNE 25, 1907
SPORTS GROUND SEAT DONATION

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee acknowledge with thanks a row of seats from Mr W. G. Malone.

TH, JULY 11, 1907
NAME CHANGE PROPOSED

It is proposed to change the name of the Recreation Grounds to that of Pakokura Park, in order to avoid the confusion that at present arises between the several grounds in the town. The name Pakokura is the original Maori name by which the grounds have been known for hundreds of years by the Natives. The meaning of Pakokura is the Red Hill, and it is surmised this name was given because the high land near to Mr Saxton King's residence was originally covered with fern bearing its brilliant flower.

TH, JULY 11, 1907
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Wednesday evening. Present—Messrs. F. F. Corhill (chairman), C. W. Garrett, R. Perry Smith, H. Ford, and E. Cook.

Apologies were received from Messrs E. Deakrill (Mayor), W. L. Newman, and P. Bellringer.

The Chairman reported that the overdraft was £13 12s 6d, and that in order to reduce the same and to enable the Board to pay wages Messrs E. Cook, R. C. Hughes, and the Secretary (Mr Tribe) were appointed a sub-committee to endeavour to raise annual subscriptions.

It was resolved that the Borough Council be requested to close that portion of Villa Street from the corner of section 1088 to the Carrington Road, and that the Chairman be requested to write to the Council accordingly.

Also that the Survey Department be cordially thanked for their assistance in preparing plans in connection with the Local Bill and for supplying information therewith.

Mr R. Perry Smith gave notice of motion as follows for the next meeting of the Board:—"That in order to obviate the confusion that has arisen, they still arises, and will continue to do so in the future between the names Recreation Sports Grounds and Recreation Ground proper it is advisable on this and other grounds that the name of the present Recreation Grounds be changed for a more emphatic one, and at the same time revert to that by which this part was known hundreds of years prior to the advent of the first European settlers; and, further, that application be made to the Minister to exercise the powers conferred by the Act in such cases made and provided to gamble the grounds now known as the Recreation Grounds to be known in the future as "Pakokura Park."

TH, JULY 13, 1907
FUNDRAISING

"RIP VAN WINKLE."

On Tuesday evening next a beautiful performance in aid of the Recreation sports ground and the Western Park will be given by those popular theatrical managers, Mr Charlie Taylor and Miss Ella Carrington, in token of their appreciation of the patronage accorded them and their talented company by New Plymouth playgoers, the play selected being the world-famous weird and legendary play "Rip Van Winkle." Mr Charlie Taylor has had the unique experience of playing the part of Rip twice a day for a season of nearly five months. This was in the Far East, where morning performances are just as fashionable as evening ones. In Japan thousands of students from the different universities flocked to see "Rip Van Winkle" because of its resemblance to a legend they have of a fisherman who was lured by a mermaid to the bottom of the sea, and returned to his native place after many years, just as Rip did. The Taylor-Carrington Company have spared no expense in the forthcoming production, special scenery having been painted, and some beautiful and realistic effects are promised. Seats may be reserved at the Colonial Picture Co.

TH, JULY 17, 1907
RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The next big improvement at the Recreation Grounds is likely to be either the extension of the large lake towards Brooklands or the formation of another lake. The matter was considered yesterday afternoon at a special meeting of the Board, attended by Messrs F. F. Corhill (presiding), R. Perry Smith, C. W. Garrett, E. C. Hughes, H. Ford, W. A. Collins, R. Cook and F. Bellringer. Messrs Madson and Palmer, civil engineers, were also present. A sum of £200 will shortly be available to the Board for carrying out permanent improvements. After discussion of the proposals the Board decided to have levels taken and to consider the alternative schemes at a special meeting to be held shortly. Mr Smith was appointed to confer with and instruct the engineers.

TH, JULY 19, 1907
NATIVE BIRDS IN GROUNDS

A large number of native birds, including pigeons, kaka, and tai, are taking up their quarters in the Recreation Grounds.

TH, JULY 22, 1907
SPORTS GROUND SEAT DONATION

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee desire to acknowledge with thanks the donation of a row of seats by Mr A. G. Sykes.

TH, AUGUST 1, 1907
SPORTS GROUND PLANTING

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee has now enclosed the ground with its oblique hedge. Pines and other trees have been planted about the banks. The tending of the terraces is settling well, and the plan is beginning to look quite ship-shape. The newly-sown grass is improving fast, but it does not look strong enough yet for football. Visitors to New Plymouth speak very highly of the new ground, which they consider will be unsurpassed in the colony.

TH, AUGUST 7, 1907
DONATIONS TO SPORTS GROUND

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee wish to thank Mr Arthur Cuff for donation of notice boards and Mr A. Cole for donation of trees and shrubs.

TH, AUGUST 13, 1907
SPORTS GROUND UPDATE

**A MAGNIFICENT SPORTS ARENA.
THE IMPROVEMENTS.**

Hundreds of people visit the beautiful grounds of the New Plymouth Rec. every day. Recently, among the number have been many who go to watch from day to day the progress of the improvements to the sports ground. The ground nesting among the slopes covered with shrubs and flowers and

owned with majestic pine has long been admired by all whose good fortune it has been to see it. One of Nihiro's most richly endowed beauty spots, truly, perhaps the most natural sports arena in the colonies. In the past, picturesque though it was, it had its drawbacks. One was that in wet weather the ground was always very bad. Who will forget the match against the British Rugby team in 1947? To improve the ground for playing on, it was decided to go in for better drainage. But the extent of the improvements did not rest there. The Committee decided to terrace all the slopes. The work began in November, 1956, and has been pushed forward energetically ever since. Sometimes there were twenty men working on the ground. The shifting of earth was one of the biggest tasks and tenders were called for this. The lowest tender was £945. The Committee considered that all the tenders were too high and decided to have the work done by day labour. They consider that £200 was thus saved. Mr Cole was the foreman engaged. Over £2000 has been spent to date and by the time of the opening ceremony, on October 10, another hundred will probably have been expended. Whereas before the improvements were undertaken there were only six terraces, providing seating accommodation for about 500 people, there are now 22 terraces. This does not include the very fine raised promenade which, running along the base of the terraces, practically encloses the playing field. The terraces alone will seat over 2500 people. The hills and other points of vantage provide excellent views of the ground, and altogether there will be accommodation for about 10,000 people. With the exception of the open end near the road, the terraces now run all round the ground. To give some idea of the amount of turfing done on the terraces, it may be mentioned that 25,000 pigs have been used. This represents 2000 feet of timber. The ground has been enlarged to 14 acres. Before, there was only about seven yards behind each goal-post on the football ground, now there is twenty yards at each end. A 100-yard straight will be obtainable for running. The leads to the terraces will at some future date be made avenues of the native punga. Also it is hoped to erect a pavilion in time to come. The drainage has proved satisfactory. In the hills on the eastern side there are springs, and the water from these used to run across the ground. So a deep drain was cut all round the playing field, practically cutting it off from the adjoining territory. The result is that the water now gets away without having to cross the ground. There is a small space in the eastern corner in front of the terraces that is at present very bare, but this will be made attractive in some way, most likely by planting some flower beds in design. The paths will all be shaded, and the main road in from the gate will be installed. Among the most active members of the committee are Messrs A. Humphries and J. Clarke, who have given considerable time and attention to the undertaking. It is expected that the Governor will open the ground on October 10.

TH, AUGUST 31, 1907 SPORTS GROUND FUNDRAISING

In connection with the Living Whist and Kirmans and other entertainments to be held shortly under the auspices of the Recreation Sports Ground Committee, it has been decided to issue an elaborate programme in book form. There will be from 50 to 100 pages. An endeavour will be made to so compile the programme as to make it well worth keeping as a souvenir of one of the largest and best-arranged affairs ever held in the colony. The committee is at present soliciting advertisements for the booklet, and we would point out to business people the opportunity they are being given of reaching the people. The programme will be circulated right throughout Taranaki, and the committee will even undertake to place them on the boats going north and south, so that they will also reach Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, and such places. The programme will be somewhat after the style of those issued in the States and Canada by Professor Whelan. Local business people should realize that in assisting the Sports Ground Committee they will be doing a very good cause. Also they will benefit themselves in that they will be making a move towards an improvement that should bring many visitors to the town. Beautifying further the already lovely grounds, and improving the accommodation for football and other large crowds, will result in a great increase in the number of visitors to New Plymouth. Will anyone ever forget the happenings of the British football match played here in 1947? No townspeople won't, and much more reason have visitors never to forget the day. The want of accommodation on that day was almost sufficient to cause visitors to make up their minds not to attend another big affair in New Plymouth. So, wake up, business people, and let the world know that you are making a Sports Ground that will accommodate the universe. Also, do not forget to lend a kindly ear to the Sports Ground Committee—the men who are devoting so much time and live interest gratuitously to benefit you and beautify your town.

TH, SEPTEMBER 9, 1907 SPORTS GROUND DRAINAGE

It is evident that the Recreation Sports Ground still holds a deal too much water. The recent heavy rains have given the ground a severe test and it is easily seen that a large quantity of water is still lying very close to the surface. It was claimed that the drainage had proved a complete success and that the ground would in future be as good in wet weather as most other grounds. This, however, has been to a certain extent disproved. This afternoon, the drain was carrying very little water, and yet all the rain-water had not got away from the ground. The drain in itself is a good one, but the trouble is that the very adhesive clay of which the soil of the sports ground consists lets the water, though as slowly that there is generally a fair amount near the surface. In proof of this, the careful observer will see that the water has been running into the drain in good quantities from the surface of the ground.

TH, SEPTEMBER 16, 1907 EDGECOMBE RETURNS FROM RAGLAN

Messrs. Edgcombe and Botheridge, who have been to the Raglan district for the purpose of collecting trees and shrubs, the former for the Recreation Grounds and the latter for Mr. Newton King, returned by the coastal steamer Waitangi on Saturday. During their fortnight's stay in the North the weather was, as been, wet and heterous without intermission, and this greatly interfered with their work. However, a very nice lot of plants have been brought back.

TH, SEPTEMBER 18, 1907 FUNDRAISING

The Living Whist and Kirmans entertainment to be given at the Theatre Royal next week, in aid of the Recreation Sports Ground, should be one of the finest spectacular performances ever seen in the Dominion. Professor Rhéets, who is conducting the performance, is a Canadian. For the past fifteen years he has conducted these entertainments in different parts of the world. Judging by the reports of crowded audiences which have greeted the performances, and wonderful skill developed by the performers, the Professor is a past-master in the art. The box plans for the four nights' performances are now open at the Collier and Colonial Piano Company's rooms. The plans are filling rapidly. The director and the committee in charge of the entertainment are throwing a lot of energy into the undertaking. It remains for the public to do their share.

TH, SEPTEMBER 19, 1907 SEASONS PLANTING

During the planting season just ended, Mr. Mack, the custodian of the Recreation Grounds and his assistant have set out in permanent positions a total of 240 trees and shrubs. These comprise 200 planted in connection with the new entrance from Gilbert Street, 50 at the John Street entrance, 100 in the newly designed belt along the Carrington Road frontage, and 100 in other parts of the Grounds. As the result of Mr. Edgcombe's recent expedition to the Raglan-Waitetuna country 200 trees, shrubs and other plants have been transferred to the Grounds, mostly in the nurseries. These comprise about twelve sorts of trees not met with in Taranaki, including some fine silver-topped pines. The trees number altogether about 140. There are 15 ferns of new sorts, and 5 Native tale or grasses.

TH, SEPTEMBER 21, 1907 SERPENTINE WORK STARTED

It has been decided by the Recreation Grounds Board to extend the upper lake. The preliminary work is to be commenced at once. The question of changing the name of the grounds has been held over for a month.

TH, SEPTEMBER 23, 1907
RECREATION GROUND BOARD
MEETING

DECEASED BENEFACTORS.

Among the correspondance submitted to the last meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was the following:—

"Dear Sir,—Before her death the late Mrs Broham expressed a wish that £200 should be given out of her estate to the Recreation Grounds Board. The will has been proved, but probate has not yet been issued to the executor. I expect this in a very short time, and will then be prepared to hand over the £200 in accordance with Mrs Broham's wishes.—Yours very truly, Clement W. Garrett."

It was resolved that, in accordance with the resolution of the Board of August 26th, 1898, the name of Helen H. Broham as a deceased benefactor should be inscribed on the marble book in the grounds.

The legacies from the estates of the late Mr E. H. Garrett and Mrs Broham are to be devoted to the purpose of extending the lake to the Brooklands boundary.

MEETING OF THE BOARD.

A meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board was held on Friday. Present: Messrs F. F. Corhill (chairman), C. W. Garrett, S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, and Harris Ford.

It was resolved that Mr Smith's notice of motion regarding alteration of the name of the grounds should stand over for a month.

The Board decided to tender its hearty thanks to Mr C. Hanson, manager of the Northern R.L. Company, Auckland, for granting a free passage for the Board's employees who went to Raglan to collect native shrubs for the grounds; also for allowing the shrubs to be shipped to New Plymouth without charge. Thanks was also accorded to Mr E. Watkins, Te Uka, for the hospitality shown the men whilst collecting shrubs, and for granting permission to range his bush.

The lotting of the tea-rooms was left in the hands of the chairman and secretary.

It was resolved that two new bridges should be erected near the waterfall, and a footpath formed leading from the Vogelsown path under the trees towards the Brooklands Head.

It was resolved that one dozen shrubs should be given to the Central School Committee for planting in the school grounds.

The question of getting rid of the water during the time the necessary excavations are being made for the lake extension was considered. It was decided to erect a dam at the Brooklands end of the swamp and divert the water into a temporary dam to be cut some distance away from the swamp; then lower the level of the present lake about eighteen inches until the swamp is drained; then erect another dam near the beach and re-fill the lake to its original level.

It was also resolved that Messrs Shaddon and Palmer should be allowed to prepare a plan for a drain outside the swamp from Mr Newton King's boundary to the lake for the purpose of diverting the swamp water, and that the Board should engage extra labour to carry out the work.

Mr Corhill was appointed overseer for the ensuing period.

TH, SEPTEMBER 23, 1907

THEATRE ROYAL
NEW PLYMOUTH.

LIVING WHIST AND
KIBBESS.

WITH SHEEP RANGING SPORTS FIELD.

First Time presented in New Zealand under the direction of Professor A. D. Smith, of Montreal.

A NIGHT OF

ENTERTAINMENT, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, and TUESDAY, in aid of Recreation Sports Ground.

500 PERSONALITIES 500

First night Collier and Colonial Fairs Company's on WEDNESDAY, September 25th, at 8.00 p.m.

Address—24, 25, 26, Devon Street and Mechanical Works, Special Reserved Seats, 4s.

M. A. T. R. E. E.

ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th, at 8.15 p.m.

Address—29, Victoria, Half-price.

For further information see Special Programme.

A. CLARKE,
Genl. Secretary.

TH, OCTOBER 8, 1907

SHEEP GRAZING SPORTS FIELD

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee has obtained several sheep to graze on the new sports arena. Visitors are requested not to take dogs near the grounds. Any dogs found in the grounds will be liable to be destroyed.

TH, OCTOBER 16, 1907

DONATIONS

The Recreation Grounds Board desires to acknowledge the receipt of annual subscriptions from Miss Humphries, Mrs E. A. Walker, Mrs Marshall, Dr. Walker, Dr. Leatham, S. Percy Smith, Capt. Wilson, T. Sala, W. L. Newman, H. Cook and £5 from Mr G. T. Hasty towards the cost of the new lake.

TH, OCTOBER 25, 1907

SPORTS GROUND SEAT DONATION

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee has received a donation of a row of seats from Mr Waugh.

TH, NOVEMBER 7, 1907

RECREATION GROUND BOARD MEETING

The usual monthly meeting of the Board was held last evening at the office of the Chairman. Present: Mr F. F. Corhill (chairman), S. Percy Smith, C. W. Garrett, W. L. Newman, H. Cook, R. C. Hughes, E. Dockrill, H. Ford, F. Bollinger, and E. H. Tribe (hon. sec.).

In accordance with a notice of motion Mr S. Percy Smith moved:—"That in order to obviate the confusion that has arisen, that still arises, and will continue to do so in the future, between the names Recreation Sports Ground and Recreation Grounds proper, it is advisable on this and other grounds that the name of the present Recreation Grounds be changed for a more euphonious one, and at the same time resort

to that by which this part was known hundreds of years prior to the advent of the first European settlers; and further, that application be made to the Ministry to reserve the powers conferred by the Act in such cases made and provided, to gazette the grounds now known as the Recreation Grounds, to be known in the future as Pukekura Park."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes.

Considerable argument ensued both for and against the motion.

Upon being put to the meeting the resolution was carried by five to four—Ayes: Messrs. Smith, Hughes, Corhill, Dockrill, and Bollinger. Nays: Messrs. Garrett, Cook, Newman, and Ford.

It was resolved that the Board should hold a display of fireworks in the grounds on Boxing night, in aid of the funds of the grounds.

Mr. Smith reported that a commencement had been made with the extension of the lake towards Brooklands. The diversion of the water from the swamp had been effected. As soon as the swamp was sufficiently dry, a start would be made with the excavation.

TH, DECEMBER 2, 1907
SPORTS GROUND OPENING DAY

The official opening of the Pukekura Park sports ground will take place on New Year's Day. The committee is making elaborate preparations for the function. A meeting of ladies who are willing to assist is being arranged to be held early next week.

TDN, DECEMBER 2, 1907
WHITE SWAN HAS CYGNETS

The white swan in the Recreation Ground has succeeded in hatching out a couple of cygnets, and the youngsters attracted a good deal of attention from British party yesterday afternoon.

TH, DECEMBER 4, 1907
SPORTS GROUND OPENING DAY

The Pukekura Sports Ground Committee has arranged a attractive programme for the official opening of the ground which takes place on New Year's Day. Included in the boxes are several novelties, such as an exhibition of motor car driving, motor cycling, an animal race, and police-lighting on a spur. All these are new to the public, an display is looked forward to with interest. There will also be a floral display. Prizes will be given for the best decorated bicycle and go-cart.

TH, DECEMBER 7, 1907
SPORTS GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Recreation Sports Grounds Committee was held last night. Mr A. Humphries presided. There were also present Messrs Southam, Parkes, H. Ford, Hobbs, Tribe, Griffiths, George, Stocker and J. Clarke (secretary).

The annual report reviewed the work accomplished during the past year, and stated that the grounds should be fit for

sports of all kinds by the new year. The work had been carried out by day labour at a saving of £200 on the lowest tender received. The additional expenditure had so far totalled £400, for which great improvements and beautification had been effected. The grounds were to be illuminated by electric light. The revenue from the grounds next year was estimated to produce £200, and it was hoped it would not be long before the committee would be in a position to assist the Pukekura Park Board, which was doing so much to add to the beauty of the grounds under its control.

The balance-sheet showed that a sum of £907 18s 6d had been expended on the grounds during the year, bringing the total expenditure to date to £1267 18s 6d. The net gain from entertainments during the year was £220 3s 6d, or £483 18s 6d since the inception of the work. The total cash donations to date were £280 7s 6d, and £28 7s 6d had been received from other sources. The bank balance showed a credit of £87 18s.

The Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and balance-sheet. The plans for the future were that the committee should provide a grandstand and effect other improvements, which it was considered would convert the grounds into the finest sports grounds in the Dominion. The additional expenditure would amount to £800.

Mr Ford seconded the motion, which was approved.

Officers were elected as follows:—Chairman, Mr A. Humphries; secretary, Mr J. Clarke; treasurer, Mr O. Griffiths; auditor, Mr N. Bowley.

The secretary was voted a bonus of £18 18s for his services during the past year.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the ladies and all who had assisted the committee with donations during the year, also to Messrs Gilmour and Clarke for placing their offices at the disposal of the committee for meetings, to the chairman, the secretary, and treasurer.

The North Taranaki Cricket Association applied for the use of the grounds on December 10th and 20th and January 2nd, for representative matches. It was decided that the association should be allowed free use of the grounds on the two former dates, as the arena would not by that time have been officially opened, and that on January 2nd the association should be allowed the use of the grounds on the usual terms.

The Caledonian Society was granted the use of the grounds for February 20th on the usual conditions.

TH, DECEMBER 16, 1907 SEAT DONATIONS WANTED

Nearly all the terraces in the Recreation Sports Ground have been seated by donation, and as it is desirable to complete this necessary work before New Year's Day, the committee would be glad to hear from any lady or gentleman desirous of their assisting. Mr Geo. George, who has erected the seats gratuitously, will be pleased to continue the work if more timber is forthcoming.

TH, DECEMBER 18, 1907 CRICKET WICKET READY

An excellent turf wicket has been prepared in the Recreation Grounds and will be first used on Boxing Day in the match against Waanganui. Cricketers are largely indebted to Mr Jack, who has spared no pains in supervising the preparation. The wicket compares favourably with any in the large centre.

TH, DECEMBER 24, 1907 SPORTS GROUND SEAT DONATION

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee acknowledges with thanks a donation of £5 4s from Dr. K. A. Walker, also donations of seats from Mr Coleman, Mrs., and Mr Coleman, Junr.

At the fireworks display in Pukekura Park on Thursday evening Mr. R. Dowse will exhibit on the lake a working model of a modern man-of-war propelled by his own engines.

TH, DECEMBER 24, 1907 SERPENTINE UPDATE

Visitors to Pukekura Park during the last ten days or so have been more interested in the work which is now in progress at the upper end of the large lake. Considerable headway has already been made with the excavation, and it is evident that the extension of the lake will add greatly to the beauty of the landscape. Under the supervision of Mr S. Percy Smith a considerable number of men are employed in taking out the swamp deposit and forming a waterway with an average depth of rather more than three feet, which will extend right up to the boundary of Mr Newton King's property. Half or more of the workmen are Maori, from Parihaka and elsewhere, and several of them, accompanied by their wives and children, are camped in the Park.

TH, DECEMBER 27, 1907 FIREWORK DISPLAY

The display of fireworks given in Pukekura Park last night was distinctly successful. The high wind that prevailed in the morning, rendered it doubtful whether the entertainment could be given. However, the weather turned out to be ideal. Messrs F. P. Corbitt, chairman, H. Ford, member of the Board, and K. H. Tribe, secretary, put in a heavy day in preparation. In spite of counter attractions the attendance was excellent—something over 2000 being present. Some £40 was taken at the gates. Round the lower end of the big lake and across the middle of it were strings of many-coloured Chinese lanterns. These were reflected in the placid water, and gave the scene an appearance of Oriental splendour. Between 7 and 8 o'clock several large fire balloons were sent up. At first these floated towards the sea, but afterwards they returned inland and disappeared towards the ranges. An excellent assortment of fireworks from Brock and Co., of Crystal Palace fame, was the means of providing a delightful pyrotechnic display. The Garrison Band was not present according to arrangement. We have not yet been able to learn the reason for this disappointment.

TH, DECEMBER 27, 1907 CRICKET ON NEW PITCH

TARANAKI v. WANGANUI.

There was a good number of cricket lovers at the Recreation Sports Ground yesterday to see the Waanganui-Taranaki match. The new pitch played especially, exceeding all expectations, and the outfield left little to complain about. Waanganui won the toss, and went in, but were all dismissed for 55.

The home team put up 183, Robertson, Russell, and Pugham playing excellent innings, Russell particularly, for he was suffering from a severe blow on the face, received while holding an square leg. Waanganui went in again and had made 48 for four wickets when play ceased. Taranaki won on the first innings by 88 runs.

TH, DECEMBER 30, 1907 SPORTS GROUND OPENING DAY

THE OFFICIAL OPENING.

The official opening of the Recreation Sports Ground takes place on New Year's Day, and will be celebrated by a monster garden party, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the further improvement of the ground. It is now some sixteen months since the improvements to this ground were started, during which time considerably over £1000 has been spent, and an immense amount of work done. The Sports Ground Committee are mainly responsible for the good results obtained, and it is owing to their efforts that the people of the district have now possibly the finest sports ground in the Dominion. As everybody must recognize the importance of having as suitable an asset, it is fully expected that the crowd at the garden party on New Year's Day will be the largest yet seen in the ground, and arrangements are therefore being made accordingly. Preparations to cope with the demand that is expected for afternoon tea are being made on a very large scale, and of no mean there will be an abundance. Lollies, fruit, and soft drinks will also be obtainable, so that the needs of everybody can be supplied. The programme has been arranged as far as to suit the tastes of all, and among the many interesting items will be found several novelties introduced for the first time in Taranaki.

The motor-car driving is a feature which will be watched with great interest, and already quite a number of motorists have signified their intention of taking part. The display of motor cycles will be something new, and should also be interesting. The animal race is another novelty which is becoming popular at functions of this description in other parts of the world, and will undoubtedly be received with great pleasure on New Year's Day. The following creatures have already been contacted for this event:—lamb, goose, rooster, pig, cat, dog, frog, rat, and many others are expected before the week-end close. Pillow-fighting on a spar is another new item, and should cause a good deal of amusement. The obstacle race, have been arranged that they will provide fun and amusement for everybody, and the items by the To Hussy Band will cause fits of convulsions. The Taranaki Guards will give a military display, the different companies being down to accompaniment of the Garrison Band. Great preparations are being made for the Fire Brigade competition, and as there are teams coming from all parts of the district, the contest should be very keen indeed. The top-of-war championship will be more interesting this year, as the event is pulled on boards with buttons fixed to prevent the men's feet from slipping. Besides these events there will be like tilting in the ring, donkey bike race, throwing the cricket ball, kicking the football, a gymnastic display, and children's races.

The official opening by His Worship the Mayor will take place shortly after 1 p.m.

The Garrison band will be in attendance.

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