

OLD FRIENDS AND NEW

AT WHANGATEAU.

A PLEASANT NEW YEAR ANNUAL.

The golden thread of friendship runs unevenly through the web and woof of life. Often it is obscured in the inequalities of the material, in accordance with the characteristics of complex human nature. Whenever the gleam of the gold is seen, however, it affords pleasure. So there is always a good time at Whangateau, not so much on account of the entertainment provided, but because it is a place where old friends look for old friends, and the brightening eye and eager and firm hand convey the message of glad hearts. And new friends are introduced by old to old; but they have yet to be tried.

Bright sunshine softly gilding the gentle undulations of the zephyr stirred blue waters, the bit of beautiful native bush, and the hills in the background constitute a picture which will linger in the mind.

I sit in the shade of the totara trees by the side of the tennis courts, and dream of the future not only of this fair district, but of the North as a whole; when fern and scrub shall be no longer seen on usable land, and there shall be in addition to flocks and herds and fruit, olive groves and tobacco fields. The people shall be multiplied a hundredfold, and the riches and strength of the Dominion increased accordingly.

Whangateau lends itself to the annual gathering in every way. There is opportunity for aquatic sports as well as land sports. It would be well to develop the former. Any place can have land sports, but very few are so situated as to make the combination successful. Comic items in and on the water are the main things to develop, and the great stretch of safe water makes this possible. Whangateau might very well become famous for the annual water pantomime more than once suggested in the "R. and O. Times."

The waterfront can easily be further beautified by the planting of shade and flowering trees—say in groups of three, the groups at intervals of fifty yards. This would provide a delightful finish to the Domain, and the attractiveness would increase year by year.

The Committee worked hard on Saturday to secure a general success, and in addition to providing an agreeable time netted about £35 for the Sick and Wounded Soldiers Fund. This was obtained from entrance fees and the sale of refreshments of all sorts. Mr George H. Phillips, of Warkworth, earned between two and three pounds for the committee by running motor trips around the track.

Refreshments of all sorts included. Not everyone likes pipis. Some affect to sneer at them. Nevertheless they were popular with many, and were few left of the waggon-load piled in the paddock.

"Will you take pipis?" asked a young volunteer waitress of a

"Will I take pipis?" he replied. "Please hand me a korosenetinful." It is said that he punished the shellfish to the extent indicated, and then, rising, said one day when he had time he would no longer be content with a sample but would have a real good feed of pipis.

The westering sun suggested the homage due to her majesty the Cow, and parties started hastily for their homes, bent on getting the milking done before candlelight.

And non-milkers went too. Glancing back at the beautiful trysting place, hallowed by the memories of many and varied years, but conscious mainly of the scenic beauties, the mind whimsically paraphrased Omar Khayam—

Whangateau! O Whangateau!
A loaf of bread, a jar of wine, and thou!

And perhaps (with hurried apologies to the sentimental Persian) a sideline of pipis!

THE SPORTS.

150 yds Maiden Race; Seven entries.—W. Haskell 1, R. Neely 2, D. Stirling 3.

100 yds Handicap; Nine entries.—W. Haskell 1, N. Wilson 2, A. Biorkland 3.

250 yds Handicap; Six entries.—L. Wyatt and A. Biorkland tied for first and second place; P. Young 3.

High Jump Handicap; Seven entries.—S. Morrison 1, (5 feet), P. Young 2, L. Wyatt 3.

Egg and Spoon Race; Eleven entries, (Ladies). This was run off in two Heats. First Heat.—Miss H. Saddler 1, Miss F. Melville 2. Second Heat.—Miss I. Dunning 1, Miss Ivy Dunning 2. Final.—Miss Irene Dunning 1, Miss F. Melville 2, Miss Ivy Dunning 3.

Half Mile Handicap; Nine entries.—N. Wilson 1, P. Young 2, L. Wyatt 3.

Sack Race; Six entries.—W. Haskell 1, L. Wyatt 2, R. Neely 3.

Hitting Cricket Ball; Seventeen entries.—P. Young 1, C. Matheson 2, G. Mathews 3.

The dance was well patronised, the Hall being crowded.

A LOCAL SENSATION.

MAN ATTEMPTS SUICIDE IN RIVER.

PLUCKY AND SMART RESCUE.

Warkworth had a sensation just before 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening last, when a man—a stranger to the town—walked on to the bridge and jumped over. There is a fall of about 20ft to the water.

The loud noise caused by the impact of the body with the water attracted the attention of a man on the Bridge House verandah, and he gave the alarm. There was a prompt response. Mr Keogh, of the local Post and Telegraphs, at once threw off his coat and jumped in.

The would-be suicide did not leave Keogh in doubt for one moment as to the dangerous nature of the task he had essayed. He was mad, and loudly proclaimed it.

"— you! Let me die!" he cried. This he kept up incessantly. Keogh was not dismayed. He got to his man and clutched him in the one way that is advisable in such circumstances. He had to avoid the madman's grip. Had he failed in this precaution there would have been a double drowning fatality. But Keogh qualified for the laurel instead of the cypress. Nevertheless he had his shirt torn off him, which was sufficient indication of the possibilities.

Keogh towed his man to the bank, despite his struggles and the nerve-jangling chain of "— you! Let me die!" which never broke.

Willing hands were now available at the water-edge, but the madman could not be got out, and he struggled savagely. Eventually a rope was passed round his shoulders, and he was dragged up the bank like a lassoed alligator.

Constable Johnson, assisted by several onlookers, hoisted the still struggling and yelling madman into Guest's cart, and in this he was conveyed to the Police Station, where further struggles took place before he was safely accommodated in the "cooler."

THE MORNING AFTER.

The following morning he was brought before the Court (Messrs J. B. Roose and G. T. Oivil, Justices, presiding) and charged with attempting suicide. It was found that he was steward on the Hauti; his name Joseph Noon. He was remanded to Auckland Prison to Jan 6 for medical observation.

The prisoner was a broken man. The furnace of his frenzy was burned out, leaving but the grey ashes of cold despair. He did not speak, and could not walk without assistance. The previous evening it took several strong men to control him.

SERIOUS MOTORING ACCIDENT.

BUGGY SMASHED, AND LADIES INJURED.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM FATALITY.

A very serious motoring accident occurred yesterday on the Puhoi-Waiwera road. It is extraordinary that it was not attended by fatal results.

It appears that Miss Lizzie Schollum (sister of Mr John Schollum, jun.), accompanied by Miss Spencer, was driving a buggy from Waiwera to Puhoi when the accident occurred. The buggy was about to round one of the turns when a large car coming from the opposite direction dashed into it.

The horses swung to the embankment and the car missed them and hit the buggy, carrying it, it is said, some yards. Miss Schollum was thrown across the car, and Miss Spencer under the horses' feet. The buggy was entirely smashed.

The car took the ladies on to Puhoi, where it was found that they were suffering from bruises, cuts, and shock, but surprised that they had got off so well.

PUHOI

(Own Correspondent.)

CARNIVAL AND FAIR.

A strong endeavor is to be made to ensure a record success for the Patriotic Carnival and Fair to be held on February 5. If we beat Mangawai we shall do well indeed.

Efforts will be made to introduce some novelties.

THE RODNEY COUNTY VOLUNTEER NURSE FUND.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Jackson wish to acknowledge in addition to the £54-17-6 already published in your columns the following sums:—

District	Collector	Amt. collected.
Glorit	Mrs Hooper	£10-0-0.
North		
Albertland	Mrs A. Vipond	£9-10-0.
Mullet Point	Miss Goldsworthy	17/6.
Hoteo North	Mrs McKrae	£5-8-0
Port Albert	M. M. Burgess	£9-9-0.
Tauhoa	M. Boler	£4-6-6.
Matakana	Mrs W. Smith	£5-1-0
Whangaripo	E. Vipond	10/-
		£54-17-6
		£100-0-0.

This makes a total of £100.

The organisers will be obliged if ladies in other Districts which have not already contributed will take the matter up and assist to make up the amount to £130, which is the sum required to send a Volunteer Nurse to the Front.

It would be well to have the whole amount raised in Rodney County if possible.

There are hundreds of pounds worth of grass seed going to waste along the roads of the North. In a more frugal country that seed would be gathered and transmuted into gold. The nation has been strongly advised to study economy in every detail. Here, instead of economy, is waste.

CURE FOR RHEUMATISM.

This is not a patent medicine, it is a prescription of an eminent English specialist. For years I had been a sufferer from chronic rheumatism. One year ago I consulted one of the leading specialists of the Dominion (now deceased). On receipt of postage stamps, money order, or postal notes for 4s 6d, I will post twelve doses of the remedy, which this specialist declared to be the only thing known to science as a cure for this painful disease. F. Greville, Editor N. Z. Dairyman, Box 502, Wellington.—Advt.

PEOPLE'S POPULAR PICTURES.

Saturday, January 8th.

PROGRAMME:

The Photo-play of the Hour.
Miss Anna Laughlin
in

THE ORDEAL

A Sensational Drama of the War, in three huge parts.

First-class supporting Programme.

LOST, one £5 Note between Puhoi and Warkworth, Reward. J. M. WECK.

WANTED, temporarily, a Working Housekeeper, or Capable General Maid. Apply Mrs E. Morrison, Red Bluff, Warkworth.

OWING to slackness of orders, the undersigned intend closing their Sawmill for three or four months from the early part of January. Mr Alf. Rayner will act as our agent for cases or timber.

A. H. MAUNDER & SON.

RODNEY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S

SUMMER SHOW!

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

LOOK OUT!
For Date and Particulars in Next Issue.

T. W. ATTWOOD,
Secretary.

For Sale.

ONE Large Dining Room Table, 9ft. x 4ft.
Apply,
W. T. WEDDING,
Streamlands.

WAIWERA SHOW

JANUARY 22ND 1916.

Excursion Steamer leaves Warkworth for Show Ground at 8.30 a.m., returning at 5.30 p.m.

T. MARKS, Sec.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

A CARNIVAL & FAIR

in aid of
WOUNDED SOLDIERS' FUND,

will be held at

Puhoi,

on

Saturday, February 5th,

1916.

Note the Date!

J. W. SCHOLLUM,
Hon. Sec.