

FRUIT COLONY.

LOCAL PROSPECTS FOR ONE.

Following the interview with Mr Buckleton on Saturday there was some chat about fruit colonies. The question was raised and discussed as to the possibility of a local syndicate or company establishing a fruit colony here, as more than once suggested in this paper. Such a venture would, if properly carried out, prove lucrative to the investors, and of substantial advantage to the district. The matter should receive further attention.

Mr Massey, when speaking in this district, said that Nelson land in its native state was selling up to £40 an acre for apple culture, though exactly similar land was available here from £5 an acre.

Mr E. Morrison, having visited the Nelson apple territory, was able to substantiate this.

Why should we wait for outside capitalists to come in and exploit this idea instead of doing it ourselves?

If it is the general desire this paper will outline a scheme whereby a fruit colony can be established without undue financial strain on anyone. It is well to say, though, that if local landowners tried to raise their price on the syndicate—just because it had come into existence to push things forward!—the promoters would be justified in resenting the attempted sharking, and dropping the project.

The subject is now open for discussion. One word may be added in conclusion: The settling of, say, 50 small fruitfarmers in a group—or two local groups under the one control—on the system long tried in Tasmania, and now being carried out in Nelson and Huapai, would help both rural and town interests in every way. This should be apparent to all who give the proposal even the most casual consideration.

LEIGH

(Own Correspondent)

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The annual meeting of the Public Library was held on Jan. 13, Mr A. L. Greenwood presiding.

The Secretary (Mr Clarke) submitted the report and balance-sheet for last year, which showed that the Library now contains 1683 volumes, and that 663 had been issued to subscribers during the year. The income had been £16 0s 8d, and the expenditure £6 12s 5d, leaving a balance in hand of £9 8s 3d.

The old trustees and auditor were re-elected. A vote of thanks was passed to the Librarian for his services. Regret was expressed that no subsidy was voted for Public Libraries this year. A list of new books submitted was authorised to be ordered.

USEFUL RAINS.

Welcome rain fell early on Sunday morning, Jan. 23, and continued very steadily. This replenished the tanks, which were getting low, and freshened up all vegetation. It was the first rain of consequence since November 26, consequently the ground had got very dry and hard. Most of the danthonia seed, of which many tons have been saved, had been safely housed, so that the rain was universally welcomed.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Rev. Scott, Moderator of the Auckland Assembly, is camping here with his family, and on Sunday, 16th Jan., held services morning and evening in the Leigh Hall, and in the afternoon in Whangateau Hall. At the latter service about 70 Boy Scouts from Auckland, under Scoutmaster Rust, attended, and filled the hall. Mr Scott also held service at Leigh on Sunday, 23rd. All these services were well attended and appreciated.

WORKS IN RODNEY COUNTY

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

At the last meeting of the Rodney County Council the Engineer, Mr F. Shannon, reported as follows:—

I beg to submit my report for the five weeks to date as follows:—

In regard to the stone-crusher at Leigh, arrangements have been made with Maunder and Son to work the plant and supply metal to the Council, and they are over at Leigh now making preparations to start crushing stone.

I have received an offer from a scow-owner in regard to freight on metal from Leigh to Matakana and to Warkworth.

Smith has completed his contract at Paley's Bridge in a satisfactory manner. Smith has also carried out grader work on the Kaipara Flats road, and is now working on Woodcocks road, spending the amount authorised. In other contracts there has been delay owing to the holidays and the harvesting, but the works are now proceeding satisfactorily.

Good progress can be reported in the making of piles for the Te Hana bridge. They will be finished in a fortnight, and I then propose to proceed with the making of piles for the Omaumau bridge.

I have a man on the Wellsford to Te Hana road, preparing for metal-ling.

Harry Greenwood has made good progress with the work authorised on the Pakiri to Leigh road, also with other surface work.

Mr D. M. Darroch has completed the repairs to the bridge near the shipyard.

Norman Russell has done surface work on the main North Road between Warkworth and Wayby.

On the Port Albert to Wellsford road the concrete pipe culvert has been placed in position and completed. It replaces the old wooden bridge. The bridge near L. P. Becroft's has been repaired, with new stringers and decking. Grader work is still proceeding on the West Coast road.

In regard to the Puhoi swing bridge at present the bridge is strong and in good order for ordinary traffic, but will not open to allow the steamer to go through—[The report fully described the mishap, and the prompt and effective steps taken to limit public inconvenience]—The people at Puhoi want the steamer to go up to the wharf, and are anxious that we should endeavor to further repair the bridge with that object in view.

At Wayby the deck on an old bridge carried away, and I sent out a load of timber for a new deck, and had it placed in position.

I also inspected Woodcock's bridge on the Hoteo River. It requires some new decking. The question of a high level bridge at this place was raised; it would cost £400.

The Hoteo River bridge on the Great North Road is sinking on the lower side, owing to the cord giving way as the result of age.

Since last meeting proclamations have been issued for taking and closing roads through Gubb's at Tauhoa and E. Andrews' at Kaipara Flats, respectively.

WHANGATEAU.

(A Correspondent.)

THE NEW YEAR'S DAY OUTING.

A meeting of the Sports Committee was held in the Dacre's Hall on Saturday, 15th January, Mr D. M. Darroch presiding.

The Secretary's statement showed receipts from all sources to be £65 7s, and the expenditure, including a small balance carried forward to the next year, £32 16s 2d; leaving a balance for the Patriotic Fund of £32 10s 10d.

The names of those prize-winners who did not lift their prizes are Misses Ivy and Irene Dunning, Messrs Selwyn Morrison, Donald Stirling, O. Matheson, Gordon Matthews.

The Committee expressed its thanks to Messrs Roydhouse, Phillips, and all the officers who so ably assisted in carrying out the sports programme; also to the ladies who so generously assisted in the catering.

Methodist Church, Dome Valley.

ANNIVERSARY TEA,
Thursday, Feb. 10, 1916.
Tea at 6 p.m. Concert 7.30.

HAEREMAI!

PATRIOTIC CARNIVAL

At Puhoi,
on Saturday, February 5th,

"Everything's got a moral if you can find it,"

Carnival Opens 10 a.m.

Children's Sports	Sports For All
Chain Stopping	Tug of War
Guessing Competition	Quit Match
Shooting Range	Duck Pond
Toy Pond	&c., &c., &c.
Refreshment and Lollie Stalls.	

Don't Miss It!

The Town of Pandemonium!

Come and find Mr Spondulix!

See the Sale of Gift Stock.

A Brass Band

In attendance.

Dance in the Evening.

Admission (entitling to draw for Lucky Ticket) . . . One Shilling

J. W. SCHOLLUM,
Hon. Sec.



RODNEY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Tenders.

TENDERS will be received by the Engineer, at the Council Chambers, Warkworth, up to noon on Thursday, the 17th February, 1916, for the following contracts:—

Contract No. 265:

Carting 150 cubic yards metal from Warkworth to Matakana Road

Contract No. 266:

Carting 560 cubic yards of metal from Matakana to near Paley's bridge

Contract No. 268:

Carting 400 cubic yards of gravel from Mount Brame to Wellsford

Contract No. 269:

Carting 600 cubic yards of metal from Warkworth to Kaipara Flats road

Contract No. 270:

Carting 200 cubic yards of gravel from Mount Brame to Port Albert

Contract No. 271:

Carting 66 cubic yards of shingle from Warkworth to the Deviation Bridge on the Great North Road

Contract No. 272:

Carting 66 cubic yards of shingle from Warkworth to Barker's Bridge on the Great North Road

Specifications can be seen at the Council Chambers, Warkworth, and for Contracts 268 and 270 at Mr Treadwell's, Wellsford.

F. SHANNON,
County Engineer.

Warkworth, 1/2/16.

HALF-BRED Angora Nanny For Sale, Cheap. Great on Blackberries. Apply "Times" Office.

WANTED, Good Trustworthy General. Apply Mrs Wilson, Bridge House.

WANTED—Lady Help, no children. Good wages. Apply Mrs David Becroft, "Oaklands," Port Albert.

NURSE URQUHART,

Hospital Cottage, Warkworth.
Telephone Number, 2.

Cases Attended With or Without Doctor.

FEES ON APPLICATION.

FOR SALE.

TOMATOES for Sauce making or Preserving. 12 lb lots or over. Price reasonable.

T. W. ATTWOOD, Warkworth.

For Sale.

COTTAGE in Pulham Rd, practically new and recently renovated throughout. Built of heart of kauri, containing 4 rooms and scullery. Section 66 ft. frontage by 132 ft. deep. Inspection invited. Price £200 cash or will arrange terms. Apply J. H. Barber, Pulham Rd.

MR S. J. ELLIOTT, SOLICITOR.

WILL be at his office in Warkworth as follows:

From noon to 10 p.m., Friday 28th, and from 2 p.m. on Thursday 3rd, to 10 p.m. Friday 4th Feb.

At Dacre's Claim and Leigh, on Saturday, 29th Jan.

At Matakana from from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, 31st Jan.

At Puhoi, Saturday 5th Feb.

Annual School Picnic to Waiwera.

SATURDAY NEXT, 5TH FEB.

HAUITI, s.s., leaves Warkworth for Waiwera at 7 a.m., and returns from Waiwera at 5 p.m.

School children carried free, adults charged 2s each, return. Hot water provided at Waiwera free.

PEOPLE'S POPULAR PICTURES.

Saturday, February 5.

PROGRAMME:

A Phenomenal Feature dealing with the Present Crisis:

THE FRINGE OF WAR!

The Picture that all Britain Cheered! High-class supporting programme. Departure of Maori Contingent and 3rd Reinforcements.

Mary Pickford Comedy Drama, "Wilful Peggy." "The Folly of Ann." Majestic Drama.

"The Honey-mooners!" Screamingly Funny Vitagraph Cm'dy.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH

RODNEY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S

PATRIOTIC SHOW & CARNIVAL

Good Sports Programme

—Town Band in attendance—

Grand Concert in Town Hall.

T. W. ATTWOOD,

Secretary.