



Bulletin

We pledge ourselves to foster, promote and inculcate in rising generations that hardy will and spirit of enterprise, responsibility, work and faith so abundantly possessed by the actual founders, which has been so important a factor in the life and progress of New Zealand.

Dominion President Surveys Busy Year

SEVENTY members of the Society, including representatives from the Branches, attended the annual meeting at Wakefield House, The Terrace. The Dominion President, Mr. A. H. Macandrew, was in the chair.

Mr. Macandrew welcomed the following branch representatives: Mr. L. M. Nutt (Taranaki); Mesdames F. Spurdle and K. Coates (Wanganui); Mr. Raymond W. Smith (Wairapa); and Mesdames M. Cox and E. McKee (Bay of Plenty).

Also present was the Dominion Deputy President, Mr. E. L. Benseman.

Mr. Macandrew, in moving the adoption of the annual report, referred to the following matters:—

Membership had increased slightly over the figures of the previous year (see page five) and since the close of the year under review there had been a substantial increase.

BRANCH INTEREST

It was very gratifying to find such interest and activity amongst the Branches and he expressed his thanks to Wanganui, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty and Auckland for the welcome and spontaneous hospitality which they had extended to Mrs. Macandrew and himself during their visit in April.

As regards the Wellington activities, the monthly luncheons continued to have good attendances and other functions had been successful. The Annual Ball had been a great success and quite a feature of the year's activities.

The Historical Display held in February had been a special feature and thanks were due to those who had worked so hard to make it the success it was, and also to those who made available exhibits for the display.

The Commonwealth Day function, in which the Society had taken a leading part, had been very successful and brought much publicity.

VALUABLE SERVICE

Mr. and Mrs. McPherson had rendered valuable service in connection with the management and catering of Wakefield House and the standard maintained by them had been very high.

Mr. Macandrew paid tribute to the splendid work done by the Social and Women's Committees in connection with the various activities of the Society, both in Wellington and throughout the country.

Mr. Macandrew thanked Mr. Fanslow for his services as honorary auditor and concluded by expressing his appreciation to the members of the Council and the Executive Committee for the valuable work which they had achieved during the year and the support they had given him during his term of office.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. Benseman, the annual report was unanimously adopted.

NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Benseman reported on his recent negotiations in London with Mrs. Priscilla Williams in connection with the Society acquiring the vacant land at the back of Wakefield House with a view to erecting a building.

It was resolved that Mr. Benseman's report be received and appreciation was expressed of his efforts to further the interests of the Society with the fountainhead in London.

Christchurch - Lyttelton Tunnel

THE Society's Canterbury Branch gives this account of the firing of the first shot of the Christchurch-Lyttelton tunnel in its September Newsletter:—

"But of all the things that were ever wished for in this wishing world of ours we will venture to say that none was ever more devoutly desired than that embodied by the people of this province in the words 'I wish Wednesday the 17th July may be a fine day,' but it turned out to be one the very worst days of one of the worst July's that it has been our lot to pass in Canterbury."

That was the comment in the "Lyttelton Times" of July 20, 1861, when reporting on the turning of the first sod of the Christchurch—Lyttelton Rail Tunnel by the Superintendent of Canterbury, Mr. W. S. Moorhouse.

Some 2000 people present were wet to the skin in "drizzling, penetrating showers."

HISTORY REPEATS

One hundred years later when on July 22, 1961, it was intended to fire the first shot of the Christchurch—Lyttelton Road Tunnel, history repeated itself by flooding the countryside for some days causing postponement.

NEW FEATURE TO INTEREST THE CHILDREN

A NEW feature in the next issue (January) of the Bulletin will be a Junior Section for contributions from members' children aged from eight to 15 years.

Articles of from 100 to 250 words on subjects dealing with pioneer times or about places of early historical interest will be welcomed.

The Society would appreciate the assistance of parents and branch committees in stimulating interest in this feature.

Contributions should be written on one side of the paper only, and sent to:

The Editor,
N.Z. Founders Society Bulletin,
P.O. Box 2457,
Wellington.

At last the day was set for September 9, but although throughout the previous night heavy rain again fell it was decided that the ceremony must go on. By kindness of the chairman of the Road Tunnel Authority, Mr. W. S. MacGibbon O.B.E., your chairman and secretary received official invitations.

SEA OF MUD

Despite all efforts of the contractors the site in front of the tunnel mouth was a sea of mud which soon worked up to the ankles and in a cold wind, cloudy sky but happily no rain the ceremony took place.

After the speeches and the firing of a shot which dislodged some 300 cubic yards of material the guests were entertained at afternoon tea when never was a hot cup of tea so welcome.

Branches Show A Keen Interest In Affairs of Society

Reports received by the Dominion Council and the Executive Committee have indicated that the Branches have continued their activities in a whole-hearted manner and have revealed a keen interest in the Society and what it stands for. It is not possible to convey to members as a whole the appreciation of the administration for the work of the Branches and the encouragement those concerned with the Administration derive from the reports, states the Society's annual report for the 1960-61 year.

As will be known to most of the members, the Dominion President, accompanied by Mrs. Macandrew and the Dominion Secretary, Mrs. Anderson, visited in April last the Wanganui, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty and Auckland Branches. The visit was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Anderson, who not only took the party in his car, but made all the arrangements for accommodation, etc.

At the Wanganui Branch members were met at a luncheon party arranged by the Branch, and at New Plymouth the Branch arranged a meeting of members, where relics and material of historical interest were displayed and their history given.

The Bay of Plenty Branch arranged a reception in the house of Mrs. Addenbrooke and the visitors were greatly impressed with the fact that several members were interested enough to travel well over 100 miles to be present.

The Auckland Branch timed their usual gathering to coincide with the visit and there was a very full attendance of members.

The Dominion President has already recorded in the Bulletin the appreciation of the visiting party of the hospitality, the interest and the friendliness of all Branch members and at the risk of repetition wishes such appreciation and the thanks of the party to be recorded here.

The Dominion Council again extends to the Branch Presidents, Committees and Secretaries its thanks for their work and co-operation with the Council.

NOTED SPEAKER TELLS WHY NEW ZEALANDERS FIND JAPAN INTERESTING

Guest speaker at an enjoyable August luncheon of the Society held in the Wakefield House, The Terrace, was Mr. Malcolm J. Mason, well-known public accountant and President of the New Zealand Division of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

Mr. Mason, who recently visited Japan, chose for his subject — "Why Do New Zealanders Find Japan Interesting?"

Incidentally, Mr. Mason's book "The Way Out" — a narrative of his adventures during the time of his escape and his year as a fugitive behind German lines in Italy — was a best seller.

A scholar and a soldier, who holds the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Territorial Forces, Mr. Mason, M.C., B.A., B.Com., Dip.Soc.Sc., F.P.A.N.Z., is a Fellow and highly regarded member of the secretarial profession.

P.O.W., ESCAPED

During the 1941 offensive in North Africa, Mr. Mason was captured and was a prisoner of war for nearly two years. He then made his escape and for about a year was a fugitive behind the German lines in Italy. His book, "The Way Out," a narrative of his adventures during this time, was a best-seller.

Prior to the war, Mr. Mason was a member of the Public Services. For the past 14 years he has been in private practice in Wellington and in the course of a busy life has given valuable service in a public capacity on various organisations.

He was a member of the Finlay Commission on Pre-School Medical Services and of the Licensed Industries Commission. For five years he was a Dominion Councillor of the New Zealand Returned Services Association and President of the Circolo Italiano, in Wellington.

In 1951, Mr. Mason was awarded the Royal Humane Society's bronze medal for his efforts in the rescue from heavy surf of two fishermen at Riverdale Beach, on the Wairarapa Coast. In 1952, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

It was in 1955 that Mr. Mason became a member of the Divisional Council of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, and the value of his services was soon recognised by his colleagues. His sound judgement and broad understanding of affairs well qualify him for high office.

UNDERGRADUATE

In his undergraduate days, Mr. Mason was a leading university athlete, representing Victoria University College in swimming, athletics and shooting, and developing the qualities of an all-rounder which have characterised his later life.

Members Hear Of China Painting

An afternoon tea gathering was held at Wakefield House in August when Mrs. Douglas Stevens gave a talk on China painting and showed examples of the art.

Members and friends enjoyed an entertaining and informative afternoon.

Mr. Macandrew Is Re-elected President At Annual Meeting

Mr. A. H. Macandrew was again elected Dominion President of the New Zealand Founders Society at its 22nd annual meeting in Wellington. Mr. E. L. Benseman, also of Wellington, was re-elected Dominion Deputy President.

In addition to being elected a Dominion vice-president, Miss C. H. Gillespie, of Wellington, was made an honorary life member. She is a foundation member of the society. The president, in a tribute to Miss Gillespie, said without her efforts the society might not be in existence today.

Other Dominion vice-presidents elected were: Mesdames E. R. Miller, A. Burnard, Misses A. Woodhouse, B. E. Bell, I. M. O'Connor, one of the two direct descendants living in New Zealand of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, and W. L. Helliwell; Messrs. Duff Daysh, F. Jeffries, A. A. Cooper, D. H. S. Riddiford, A. J. Seed, A. J. Raymond, D. J. Riddiford and Raymond W. Smith.

Dominion councillors elected were: Mesdames W. D. Dobson, E. Coates, J. Lober, F. Townsend, Miss J. E. Sellar; Messrs. S. G. Dinniss, A. Seed, A. J. Raymond, A. B. Diamond, F. Simmons, G. Townsley, M. Craig.

Six more Dominion councillors are to be elected by branches.

CHRISTMAS TOUCH

With the approach of Christmas in mind, members of the New Zealand Founders Society attended a demonstration of the making of Christmas decorations, which was held in their rooms at The Terrace.

Mrs. J. E. Maddock demonstrated how to make different arrangements using pine and macrocarpa cones, dried seaweed, baubles and coloured ribbon. As a change from the Christmas wreath that decorates the front door so often, she constructed a decoration, using macrocarpa cones, baubles, and a large red bow.

Mrs. D. Coates and Mrs. F. J. Townsend officiated at the meeting.

Take pride in your founder . . .

Having read "The Bulletin" pass it on to another member of your family, or to some friend. Interest them in the activities of The Founders Society. Unity is strength. The more members we possess greater will be the significance of this movement. Take pride in your founder forbears, help those who would keep their memory green, and remember—if you have something to communicate, get in touch with us.

This Land Of Ours

BY virtue of factors over which I have had no control and can therefore take no credit for, I am a representative—as you are—of some of the founders of this country. Being part Maori, it is beyond question that some of my ancestors at least have called this land home for many centuries.

The fact that these ancestors absorbed—in some cases, unhappily, quite literally—the people of earlier waves of migration from the Pacific, would take my antecedents back into antiquity, back to the first settlement of these favoured isles by man.

On the European side by ancestors came from Hereford and Devon with affiliations with Wiltshire, Shropshire and Somerset. My maternal great-grandparents were in Auckland in the 1840's, my mother's father arrived from England in the 1880's and my father's father some years earlier, for her served with the Armed Constabulary in the Maori Wars. Thus my connection with the years of foundation are quite personal.

I think that at this point it would be proper for me to pay a tribute to your president, Mr. Nutt, for the very real interest that he takes in the affairs of your society and for the care he has taken with me in particular to ensure that a subject is selected which will draw upon any special knowledge that a speaker has — or in my case, is reputed to have — so that it might be so presented that the objects of the society are advanced.

His insistence that a talk be properly recorded has led to the writing of this one, a discipline to which I am not accustomed and which is therefore very good for me. That the substance of what I have to say is not exactly along the lines upon which we agreed is due to my perverseness and not to his lack of admonition.

So tonight I would speak on this land of ours. I would speak of the land and of its people, as they were in the beginning, as they were in the distant past, as they were in the recent past, and as they are now. And I would add some thoughts about their possible role in the future.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and from that time of creation, through countless ages until perhaps a thousand years ago no man stood upon nor wondered at, nor exploited, nor disputed over this jewel of His creation which my Maori ancestors called Aotearoa, and which my Pakeha forebears called New Zealand. I sometimes like to dwell on what this land looked like before it knew man. The long beaches that bore only the imprint of the feet of seabirds, the tangled forests that knew no four-footed creature, no vicious reptile, the lakes with their shoals of native fish which no man netted, the tussock plains empty and silent in the country's heart, that knew no sound but the wind and the rain and the distant thunder of a volcano, the skies empty save for wheeling hawks, the whole girded about with pounding surf, whose roar no man heard for century after countless century.

Then out of the ocean came a people. We do not know exactly where they originated although, despite recent theories, it seems to me that their homeland was somewhere on the Asian mainland. They had left that homeland many generations before, they had travelled in their long open boats from island unto island, they had stayed here and there for centuries perhaps, they had left their influence of blood and culture in a string of lands and had gathered too, from these countries, other elements of blood and culture that they bore on in their eastward probings into the sea of many islands—Polynesia. They were the people whom one of their most distinguished descendants called, with poetic accuracy, "The Vikings of the Sunrise." They were the ancestors of the Maori people.

FIRST SETTLERS

I think that modern research has proved beyond reasonable doubt, that the first settlers of Aotearoa were of the same racial stock as the later people whom we call Maori. The once widely held idea that the first people were Melanesians or some other race which differed from the later Maori people is seldom advanced now by those most qualified to comment on it.

The arguments advanced by Dr. Roger Duff — so well known to many of us — are difficult to refute and so I will

**By Mr. H. B. D. Dansey, now of Auckland,
in an address to the New Plymouth Branch of
the Founders Society.**

say, that the first people in this land were of Polynesian blood, and probably came from the islands of the Central Pacific.

I resist strongly, the temptation to say why I believe this, and it is a sidetrack I would have plunged along regardless, had not your president directed me to write what I intended to say.

Then followed, in successive waves, steady migration from the Pacific, culminating in what has come to be known as the Fleet migration, about which tradition has much to say and to which we give the date of 1350. That migration came from the Society Islands, from Tahiti and Rangiata in particular; and this group was the last Hawaiki of the Maori.

Let us now consider the nature of the ancestors of the Maori people when they arrived on these shores. Some of this can be based on the evidence of their works which remain, some on their traditions and some on conjecture.

TROPIC PEOPLE

For a start they were a tropic people and their culture and their way of life were those of a tropic people. Theirs' was a stone age culture, the new stone age with its characteristic polished implements but without some of the attributes of that phase of development in other lands. For instance, they did not make pottery. This culture was based on the raw materials available in the islands and was adapted for those conditions.

There was a major adjustment to make when the new settlers reached Aotearoa. Clothing in the islands had been made of the aute, the paper mulberry, the type of pounded fibre known as tapa. They brought the aute to this country where it survived but more as a sentimental curiosity than as an important item of raw material. The harakeke — the native flax — had to take its place. From the use of this new material a whole new section of material culture was built up, based on the old way but with new methods being evolved as time went by. The Maoris became, perhaps, the finest weavers — although weaving is strictly not the correct term — in all Polynesia. This land of ours had changed an element of their culture.

So it was with basket-making when the pandanus leaf was no longer available, so it was with cord making. And very quickly they came to understand the value of the dense rock that could be found in this country and adzes and weapons of exquisite workmanship gave another indication of environment influencing culture. They fashioned the rare greenstone into a wide range of implements.

weapons and ornaments in many ways unknown elsewhere in Polynesia. Some of these, indeed, one feels strongly tempted to class as jewellery.

A CHALLENGE

The great timber trees of Aotearoa offered a challenge to an industrious, artistic craftsman like the Maori, with the result that their great canoes may be regarded as second to none in the craft annals of a primitive people. Their carving reached a peak of artistic merit and craftsmanship infinitely higher than anything accomplished by their Pacific relations.

It was superior from the smallest carved feather box to the largest 20-foot pillar supporting the ridge pole of a meeting house. In sheer bulk, as compared with artistic merit, the only art in the Pacific that could compare with it, was the totem carving of the Red Indians of the British Columbia area — and that art did not reach its peak until the introduction of steel tools.

In the realm of abstract culture the Maori adapted the thought and teachings of his ancestors to the new land. Thus we find, that while in the Pacific, Tangaroa, the god of the sea was considered the superior god — and for obvious reasons — here Tane, the god of life, of all living things, was elevated to the supreme position. Minor gods that had been overseers of some branch of culture or natural life in the islands, were localised in New Zealand. Ancient place names were given to hills and bays and plains.

As the people lived longer and longer in the country, so did natural features become identified with historical figures and happenings. Gradually the land and its geography and its flora and bird life and sea life seeped into the thought of the people. This land of ours was bound to them, became part of them, for the gods were here and the *taniwhas* and the fairies, because there were ancestral hearths on the hills and by the rivers, because there were battlefields and fortifications, because it was here that the old people had lived and loved and sung and fought and laboured and had been laid to rest.

So the land and their living in it changed the people and they came to love Aotearoa with a deep and abiding affection.

Now perhaps I have given you cause to think that I am here to laud and magnify the Maori people. That is not quite so, because I am probably more fully aware than you might think of their many imperfections, and especially of those of the pre-European Maori. His culture was a pagan one and included many aspects from which, today, we would recoil in horror. His laws of *tapu* *mu* and *rahu* were merciless in their application. His social organisation of an hereditary aristocracy heading body of freemen was based on a system of slavery. The wonder

is that with the barbarity of his surroundings, his art and his thought reached so high a level.

A NEW PEOPLE

Now comes a new people. The European arrived in this land of ours for varying purposes. Some came for adventure, some came to teach and to preach, some came for trade, some came for administrative duties, some came to maintain law and order, but the majority came for the same reason as the Maori had come centuries before, to make a new home and to seek a new life. Among them were people of the highest calibre and pre-eminent among them were the missionaries.

It has in recent times been fashionable to decry the work of the missionaries. It has been said that it would have been far better had they left the noble Maori to his own practices and ways and religion. You will never find me in that company, mainly because I think I know too well some of the more objectionable features of those practices and ways and religion. Some of them went like way in a flame before the righteous wrath of men like Henry Williams, wicked old customs now gone for ever—and good riddance to them.

Then there were the humanitarians, those who followed the lead of the thinkers then preaching old faiths anew in England, men like Wilberforce and Hodgkin and Prichard. This was strengthened by religious thinking, a deep compassion for humanity based on Christianity. The belief that "God hath created of one blood all nations of men" lies at the base of all that is best in colonialism of the early Victorian times.

But all the settlers did not take this view, far from it. They came here not because they disliked their old homeland, far from it, for they loved England very much, but rather because they disliked the economic conditions and the social usages of the day. I think that in our reading we will find an underlying determination to make the new land into all the old should have been, to bring with them as much of the old things that they liked as they could, and to change the new land so that it looked like the old, to be a fitting background for the brave new things they wanted to try—social, economic, political.

Let us face it fairly. In this brave new world the Maori had very little place except in the minds of some churchmen and humanitarians. The majority of the settlers had little conception of Maori thought or desire to learn of it or of Maori ideas of right and wrong such as they were. And of the Maori's love of this land of ours they cared not a jot. Were they not trying to change the land, anyway?

To be Continued

SLIGHT MEMBERSHIP INCREASE

At March 31 this year, the total membership of the Society was made up as shown below. For comparison purposes the previous year's membership is also shown:

		1960	1961		1960	1961	
Honorary Life	.....	41	36	Wellington	.....	767	791
Life	.....	102	97	Auckland	.....	245	247
Senior	.....	1,129	1,201	Wairarapa	.....	175	163
Junior	.....	100	81	Wanganui	.....	81	88
Associate	.....	92	96	Bay of Plenty	.....	80	67
				Canterbury	.....	65	86
				Taranaki	.....	51	69
		<u>1,464</u>	<u>1,511</u>			<u>1,464</u>	<u>1,511</u>

DANCING THROUGH THE YEARS AT GAY FOUNDERS' BALL

Original floor shows, beautiful floral arrangements, and appropriate musical numbers were features of the successful annual ball held by the New Zealand Founders Society at Wellington.

The Majestic Cabaret was fragrant with spring flowers—pink and white stocks, yellow tulips, white blossom, and arum lilies.

Cardboard figures of pioneers of 1840, made by by Mr. P. Coates, stood in the foyer of the cabaret.

The official guests were received by the Dominion President (Mr. A. H. Macandrew) and Mrs. Macandrew, who wore a gown of sea-mist brocade.

Official guests were the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Marshall) and Mrs. Marshall.

Others present at Mr. Macandrew's table were Mr. and Mrs. J. W. P. Watts, Mr. and Mrs. E. Harcourt, Mr. and Mrs. Max Wall, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Benseman, Mr. and Mrs. D. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Uniake, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Macandrew, Miss Molly Cook, and Mr. W. B. Ross.

The floor show was an exhibition of dancing through the years, and was organised by Miss Molly Cook, and compered by Mrs. Jeanne Gandar. It showed the evolution of dancing from the sets and waltzes of 1861 to the Charleston of the 1920's and through to the rock and roll of 1961. All dancers were authentically costumed in period dresses.

The flowers were arranged by Mrs. M. P. McPherson.

AMONG THE GUESTS

The guests included Mr. and Mrs. D. M. P. Hay, Mr. and Mrs. A. Northover, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Manger, Mr. and Mrs. W. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Lang, Mr. and Mrs. A. Petterson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. R. Otton, Mr. and Mrs. N. Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Ramsay, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Madgwick, Mr. and Mrs. E. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. N. Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. R. Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. G. Townsley, Mr. and Mrs. A. Williams,

Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Jollisse, Mr. and Mrs. A. Beauchamp, Mr. and Mrs. K. Garry, Miss J. Wilding, Miss Gillian Hough, Miss Elizabeth Brearer, Captain D. Blundell, Captain McBeverley, R.N., and Mr. John Baskcomb, the Misses A. Holm, J. Bryant, D. Beauchamp, B. Love, P. Cahill, J. Anderson, R. Hawkins, D. Murray, N. Swan, M. Baber, B. Watts, and Messrs. R. Buxton, D. Guy, N. McNaught, B. Spooner, C. Jackson, R. Bell, R. Holm, V. Goodman, and G. Hooker.

Mrs. D. M. King, Dr. L. Grange, Mr. G. Crombie, Mrs. M. Williams.

Pre-ball parties were given by Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Macandrew, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Diamond, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. McPherson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bentley, Mr. and Mrs. D. Heinsius, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. B. McEwan, Mr. and Mrs. F. Townsend, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Loeber, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. A. Mexted, Miss P. Anderson, Miss A. Macandrew, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Townsley, Mr. and Mrs. F. Manoy, Mr. and Mrs. Colthurst, Miss Beverley Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Ingle, Mr. and Mrs. Maclauchlan and Mr. and Mrs. Sipes.

Big Gathering To Greet Lord Mayor

More than 400 guests attended a reception given by the Commonwealth Societies in Wellington and members of the New Zealand Founders Society and the English Speaking Union for the Lord Mayor of London (Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen) and Lady Waley-Cohen and their party in the Blue Room of the Art Gallery.

In the official party were Mr. Sheriff A. K. Kirk, his daughter, Mrs. M. E. Scott, the Chief Commoner (Mr. Deputy H. W. Keith Calder), and the Lord Mayor's Household Officers—the Swordbearer (Colonel B. J. D. Lumsden), the Sergeant-at-Arms (Brigadier P. J. E. Clapham), the City Marshal of London (Brigadier R. H. S. Popham), and two reception officers of the Internal Affairs Department.

Lady Waley-Cohen was wearing a Dior-lined coat in grey, black and white over-checked tweed with a narrow circlet-collar of black fur. Her black pillbox hat with top pom-pom was also of fur. Her sheath dress under her coat was black and she wore pearls, also the spray of pale pink orchids presented to her.

Mrs. Scott's black sheath frock had a square neck edged with fur and her small hat was of matching fur.

ON BRITISH LINES

The reception chairman (Mr. D. A. Wraight), Dominion President of the Royal Overseas League, said that the societies represented were all concerned with establishing and maintaining our own particular way of life, modelled on the British pattern but modified to suit the Dominion's own particular needs.

All looked to the marvellous new Commonwealth which had grown out of the Empire and which, with its many creeds, religions and ties, was the greatest hope of peace in the world.

The Blue Room was gay with flowers for the occasion. White pedestals supported large bowls of mixed spring flowers including daffodils, japonica, irises, cherry blossom, rhododendrons and camellias, and the official table was decorated with massed parma violets and daphne.

The flowers were arranged by Mrs. A. C. Dickens, Mrs. W. F. Shirer, Mrs. E. M. Christie and Mrs. D. A. Hill.

Wanganui Farewell To Mr. G. Walker

At the residence of Mrs. R. C. Scoular, Durie Hill, an enjoyable social evening was held to farewell the Society's Wanganui Branch former secretary, Mr. George Walker, who has left to take up residence in Hunterville.

Forty-eight members attended, and new members were welcomed by the chairman, Mrs. F. Spurdie. A small amount of business was dealt with, after which interesting histories of early settlers were read by some members and one member had letters dated 1840, beautifully written and in a wonderful state of preservation.

The evening was not long enough to cover the interesting articles members had with them.

Mr. Walker was presented with a book and a cheque by the chairman as a token of appreciation from the Wanganui Branch of the society for all the hard work he had done over a number of years. The secretary handed Mr. Walker a bouquet of flowers for Mrs. Walker (who was unable to attend), with best wishes from the society. In replying, Mr. Walker said he still hopes to contribute to the Newsletter, as it was important to keep the spirit of the Founders alive. An enjoyable supper was served. Mr. Scott-Maundrell passed a vote of thanks to the host and hostess for the use of their home.

Narrow Escape From the Hau Haus

At the time when the Hau Haus were giving a lot of trouble to the settlers in Southern Taranaki, my two uncles—James and Charles Durie, were farming on what was called the River Flats in Waitotara, and in the vicinity of the Railway Bridge which was built in after years.

This account of their narrow escape from being killed by the Hau Haus was told me by my uncle Charles some years afterwards.

"We were asleep in our 'whare' one night, when the door was pushed open and a Maori whom we knew as friendly said, 'Taare, haere, haere, Te Hau Haus.' We sprang out of our beds and hurriedly crept in our sleeping

By C. D. L. MAYSMOR,
OF AUCKLAND.

gowns to the river and waded and half swam across and then made our way as fast as we could go down river to a redoubt, where there was a number of soldiers. As we approached the redoubt, we called out to the sentries who we were and told them to inform the commandant that the Hau Haus were on the war path and that we had narrowly escaped from them.

"We were promptly called in to the commandant's presence, who at once gave orders for squads of soldiers to get dressed and armed and proceed up river to encounter the Maoris and drive them back.

"As soon as the soldiers had departed, the commandant gave us each a pair of trousers and shirt and loaned us two horses, with bridles only, and told us to make for Wanganui along the beach as quickly as we could and inform the O.C. there of what was happening in Waitotara. We eventually arrived in Wanganui safely, delivered the message to the O.C. there and sent home to Glen Durie to await news. The news soon came in a report from the Commandant at Waitotara River Heads.

"It said that the body of the friendly Maori who had warned the Durie brothers to go away was found and that he had been tomahawked—the Duries' whare had been burned to the ground, etc.

"The name of the gallant Maori who had given his life to save my uncles from being murdered was PIRIMONA. His name was honoured and respected by the white settlers and the residents of Wanganui. My uncle was of the opinion that the Hau Haus arrived at the whare very shortly after he and his brother had got away and had felt the beds and found that they were warm, and realised that someone had warned them, so they searched the surroundings and found Pirimona.

PURCHASE OF NEW ZEALAND

This interesting highlight in New Zealand history is submitted by A. S. Fitzwater, of Wanganui:—

The following appeared in the Auckland "Star", dated June 17, 1935:

"Few people ever knew that New Zealand was once purchased from the Maoris by a single white man for something like £270 and some £100 in annuities to half a dozen chiefs. Those who do know of it have written fairly extensively on the subject, but never has any reference appeared to the terms of the document."

According to a writer in the "Sydney Morning Herald", this document is still in existence, being in the possession of a private family. The writer, Mr. A. N. Howard, claims to have been one of the few to whom the family has ever shown the document, and he gives a resume of its contents, as far as his memory serves him.

Written on two sheets of parchment and dated February 15, 1840, the "deed" is signed by Mr. W. C. Wentworth as purchaser, by Mr. John Jones, the noted whaler, as his agent, and by each of the vendors, the Maori chiefs who took part in the deal. Mr. Jones guided the chiefs' hands as they made their tribal signs.

In all, Mr. Howard says, it was a "truly magnificent document". He added: "Unfortunately for Mr. Wentworth, the British Government wisely declared the contract void." It is strange that this epoch-making incident, by which the whole trend of the Dominion's history might have been changed, should have been almost forgotten in the land which it concerned and remember only in a neighbouring country. Who knows but that "King Wentworth" the V or XXV might have been ruling a strictly Maori nation today?

When Auckland celebrates its centenary, this little incident should not be entirely ignored. Batman's landing at Melbourne and his remark: This will be the place for a village, cannot compare with the centenary of the purchase of an entire nation for some £300.

With a superb disregard for authenticity in Maori pronunciation, spelling and nomenclature, Mr. Howard quotes the document as being signed by "John Towack, chief of the Towai tribe; Jackie White, chief of the Kaikoraira tribe; Takawa Tyroa, and Bogener, joint chiefs of the Otago; Tohowack and Parhikie (or Tobie), joint chiefs of the Robuckie.

"The sale was," he says, "for the following considerations: For the sum of £100 of lawful British money, and £50 to John Towack also in an annuity for life of £20—and to the others £20 each and an annuity for life of £10!"

The purchase is referred to in the "Australian Encyclopaedia", which in a paragraph amongst eight columns devoted to this amazing "stormy petrel" of Australian

politics, says he bought from seven chiefs 20,000,000 acres in the South Island for "£200 in cash and a promise of 'a like sum per annum as long as they should live'. New Zealand was then under the direct control of New South Wales, and Wentworth, who for years had been the most impassioned agitator for constitutional reform and self-government, earning himself the hatred of the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir George Gipps, had his appeal dismissed in terms of unsparing contempt by the latter. He thereupon resigned from his Magistracy and swore eternal vengeance on the Government.

Four years later, he started his amazing series of speeches which are generally admitted to have won the State the right of self-government under the present elective system. A lawyer by training, he took up farming and profited greatly by it, building in 1829 the home which still stands in Vacluse Gardens, Sydney, preserved as a public monument to him. He died in Dorsetshire, England, and was given a State funeral in Sydney in May, 1872."

There are 66,000,000 acres in New Zealand, so Wentworth's purchase of 20,000,000 acres would be the South Island only. It's amusing to think that while the celebrations of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi were going on in the North Island, Wentworth was trying to put a fast one across in the South Island.

It is a pity that Mr. Howard did not say where the "deed" was signed, but probably it was Waikouaiti, near Dunedin.

Obituary

MR. EDWIN PAIN

Mr. Edwin Pain, who died recently in Masterton and was buried in the lawn cemetery after a service at St. Matthew's Church, was an old member of the Founders Society and well known to many Masterton members.

His death severs a link with the very early settlers in this country.

He was the eldest son of Edwin Pain, whose father and mother came to New Zealand in the sailing ship "Oriental" in 1840. Edwin, the elder, was born at Petone in the following year and is believed to be the second white male child to be born in Wellington Province.

The late Mr. Pain was born on "Brancepeth" Station, where his father was employed as a bullock driver. At seventeen years of age he took up land in the Miki Miki district, where he took a great interest in native birds, especially the huia, which he raised by hand and whose cry he could imitate expertly.

He had lived at Hatira, Whakataki, since 1911—for fifty years.

His wife, a son, Francis, and daughter, Betty, 8 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren survive him.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Wellington members have been fortunate in having an interesting series of guest speakers at recent gatherings in Wakefield House, The Terrace.

Mr. A. F. Wilton, secretary of the Wellington Hospital Board, was guest speaker at a luncheon. The subject of his address was "Some Aspects of Hospital Administration".

Colonel G. W. Dudley-Johnson chose for his subject "The North-West Frontier of India" at a luncheon meeting.

A special afternoon gathering at Wakefield House on October 3 saw a demonstration of floral art in the form of Christmas decorations with pine cones, etc., by Mrs. J. E. Maddock, of Lyall Bay.

The guest speaker at an October 11 luncheon was the well-known cartoonist, Neville Lodge.

ROTARIAN

Mr. S. G. Dinniss, of Wellington, a Dominion Council member, has been admitted as a member of the Wellington Rotary Club.

New Members of Founders Society

Name	Address	Ship		Ancestor
Mrs. H. F. Sips	Wellington	Whitby	1841	William Brydon
Mrs. P. M. McGerty	Upper Hutt		1827	Rev. James Stack
Mrs. B. Archibald	Wellington	Caroline Agnes	1855	Edward Taylor
Mr. A. H. Rogers	Auckland	Essex	1843	John Rogers
Mr. W. D. Wallace	Auckland	Mariner	1859	David Wallace
Mr. L. P. Bennett	Christchurch	Mary Ann	1859	Margaret Mears
Miss G. E. K. Davis	Christchurch		1823	Rev. Richard Davis
Mrs. C. M. Oakes	Christchurch	Bangalore	1851	Joseph Loader
Mrs. N. Collings	Christchurch	Glentanner	1857	William Oliver
Mr. M. J. Mason	Wellington			Peter Speedy
Mrs. A. S. Morrison	Auckland	Cressy	1850	Mr. and Mrs. Collette
Mrs. L. E. Bush	Auckland	Cressy	1850	William Morrison
Miss M. F. Barnett	Paraparaumu	Ajax	1849	William Henry Valpy
Mrs. J. Linfield	Wanganui	Amelia Thompson	1841	John Wallace
Mrs. M. A. Barnett	Auckland	Bolton	1840	John Churton
Miss F. M. Crooke	Auckland	New Zealand	1842	James Chapman Smith
Mr. F. S. Morriss	Christchurch	Joseph Fletcher	1856	William Morriss
Mrs. M. R. Chapman	Christchurch	Charlotte Jane	1850	Ingram Shrimpton
Mrs. M. N. Flavel	Christchurch	Adelaide	1840	George Andrews
Mrs. C. A. Buchanan	Christchurch	Adelaide	1840	George Andrews
Miss M. D. Cook	Wellington	Clifford	1841	John H. Cook
Mrs. H. M. Hewland	Wellington	Aurora	1840	James Prebble
Mrs. M. D. James	Wellington	Sir George Osborne	1826	Rev. James Hamlin

Society's Secretaries' Addresses

Dominion: Mrs. D. Anderson, P.O. Box 2457, Wellington. Telephone 42-278 (Bus.), 77-184 (Home).

Auckland: Miss I. M. O'Connor, P.O. Box 387, Auckland. Telephone 23-079 (Bus.), 585-985 (Home).

Bay of Plenty: Mrs. R. Burgess, Lichfield, R.D. 2, Putaruru.

Wanganui: Mrs. M. W. Fitzherbert, 139 Glasgow Street, Wanganui.

Wairarapa: Mrs. I. Ball, 5 Johnston Street, Masterton. Telephone 6924.

Taranaki: Miss K. Todd, P.O. Box 471, New Plymouth.

Canterbury: Mrs. M. Jones, 41 Flockton Street, Shirley, Christchurch. Telephone 58-564.