

## President's Message

Mr. Duff Daysh, President of the Society, writes:—"With this enterprise of a printed newsletter, which will be issued periodically, the Dominion Council hopes to prepare the way for a magazine, which cannot be undertaken until the Society's financial resources are much strengthened. For this object and other important purposes, the Society's membership must be greatly increased, and receipts from the small annual subscription of 10/- must be supplemented by gifts from well-wishers who recognise the national importance of helping the Society in a vigorous achievement of its objects on a wide front.

"The present total of 1400 members shows good progress, but is far short of the number desired. The roll can grow greatly from efforts of members to nominate eligible relatives and friends. In this case, as in all others, an old truism applies—'Results will be proportionate to efforts.' Such efforts for the advancement of the Society are efforts for the benefit of New Zealand, because the Society's main idea is nation-making with inspiring principles and great deeds of the founders for guidance and encouragement."

## Historic View of Waitangi

A very eloquent and dramatic address on the Waitangi estate, the Waitangi Treaty and the formation and operation of the Waitangi National Trust was given by Mr. Cheviot Bell at a well-attended meeting of the New Zealand Founders Society in Wakefield House on the evening of 24th November.

The President, Mr. Duff Daysh, who introduced the speaker, remarked that Mr. Bell, the first president, was the principal architect in planning the structure of the Society. He was the leader of the stalwarts who made the Society a reality. As a member of the Waitangi National Trust Board, Mr. Bell was well qualified to speak on the great historic events of 1840.

### Great Gift of Lord and Lady Bledisloe

"I have felt," said Mr. Bell, "that no adequate portrait of the historic events which took place more than 100 years ago can be presented, unless I attempt to give to those of you who have not seen it, some description of the Waitangi site itself and its intrinsic beauty—indeed splendour. If that be so, there can then be only one starting point—a tribute of gratitude to Lord and Lady Bledisloe for their outstanding generosity and vision which rendered this historic and intrinsically lovely spot a heritage for all time to our country. Because of what they did and of the gift which they made to us, Waitangi belongs to you and to me as citizens, and to our children and our children's children for all time—a national heritage, a national playground and a national shrine."

"The first gift of Lord and Lady Bledisloe, in 1932, consisted of about 1005 acres of land surrounding the Treaty House, an outlay of between £20,000 and £30,000. They also contributed to the cost of 1200 acres, known as the 'Hinterland,' which is vested in the Crown and has been planted in native trees as a background for the principal area.

### The Trust Deed and the Board

Immediately following the gift Parliament passed the Waitangi Trust Board Act, 1932, which made provision for perpetual preservation of the historic site. Scheduled to the Act is the Trust Deed by which the land is vested not in the Crown nor the Government but in a National Trust Board for whose constitution and successive membership the Deed makes provision.

### Membership of the Board

Lord and Lady Bledisloe are life members of the Trust Board. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands are ex-officio members. The other members, in order of seniority and length of office, are Mr. Vernon Reed, representing Northern pakehas; Mr. Riri Kawiti, O.B.E. (described by Mr. Bell as "a most lovable Maori elder, believed to be the only surviving grandson of any chieftain who signed the Treaty"); Sir Heaton Rhodes, representing the South Island; Mr. Charles Williams, representing the descendants of the great missionary and man, the Rev. Henry Williams, who played so distinguished a part, not only attendant on the Treaty's completion but in the missionary field, which preceded it; Mr. Cheviot Bell, as successor to his father, Sir Francis Bell, representing the Wakefield family through lineage from Priscilla Bell, who became the wife of Edward Wakefield and thus the grandmother of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, chief organiser in the colonising of New Zealand; Sir James Elliott, as successor to the Right Hon. J. G. Coates; Lieutenant-Colonel James Henare, illustrious commander of the Maori Battalion, who succeeded his father, the late Tau Henare.

"With the late Sir Apirana Ngata," said Mr. Bell, "Tau Henare was responsible for procuring and supervising the magnificent carvings and tapestry work which grace Waitangi's Whare Runanga in which his portrait holds pride of place.

"Of Jim Henare I wish to say this: If there is in the Maori race a handsomer man, a quicker or more resonant orator, or a man combining deep sincerity with greater simplicity or one with more pleasing companionship, I have yet to meet him."

Mr. Vernon Reid was originally secretary of the Board. He retired during Lord Freyberg's term of office as Governor-General and the Lands and Survey Department, which administers the Scenery Preservation Act, was entrusted with the secretarial and administrative functions under the control and supervision of the Board, which will continue to be the controlling and directive authority on all matters of policy, economy, public welfare and amenities, general direction and supervision. The secretarial duties are performed by Mr. Lindsay, a departmental officer who resides on the site. The caretakers are Mr. and Mrs. Ashworth, who reside in the Treaty House.

### Lord Freyberg's Zeal

Mr. Bell paid a glowing tribute to Lord Freyberg's very active interest in Waitangi. "He showed the same enthusiasm and zeal, the same utter self-abnegation as he had shown as a warrior, almost unexampled in battle, one who had won a place in the Valhalla reserved for the brave," declared Mr. Bell. "Nothing was too much trouble for him in his service for Waitangi. To him goes the credit for inauguration of long-term planning in the development of the Waitangi Estate, as opportunity and finance allow, in accordance with the principle of priority. The first priority was the installation of a good water supply, combined with sanitation.

"Lord Freyberg had the vision of Waitangi not only as a memorial and a shrine but as a place of recreation. Already there are seven beach cottages. A hostel for children, a motor camp and a tea kiosk are in prospect. Golf and yacht clubs have been formed and other formations are in sight."

### Inspiring Site of Treaty House

"It is not easy to give an adequate picture of Waitangi's sheer loveliness," continued Mr. Bell. "The site of Treaty House (originally the home of the British Resident, James Busby) is on the western arm of the Bay of Islands. You look—with one single foreground interruption—directly across the bay to Russell (the famed Kororareka of the early mission days). That single foreground interruption is the magnificent kauri flagstaff 112 feet high erected by the Navy on the exact spot where the Treaty was signed. From the mast-head of this staff, from sunrise to sunset each day, proudly flies the Union Jack. That flagstaff is the key point of the celebrations each 6th of February. In like manner it will be the key point of the celebrations to greet Her Majesty on the 28th December.

"On the left, shaded by two huge oaks, planted by James Busby himself, is the Whare Runanga inspiring in the magnificence and symbolic significance of its carvings and tapestry. Beside it, under cover, is housed the War Canoe—117 feet long, with paddle space for 80 warriors.



"Through the generosity of Lord and Lady Bledisloe, Treaty House, built nearly 120 years ago, has been renovated and preserved. Behind it lie the pleasant uplands with their golf course and winding roads leading to Mount Bledisloe, which has a commemorative direction pedestal setting the compass arm and distance to London and to all quarters of the globe.

"The southern boundary of the estate is the Waitangi River, which got its name from the sound of its water pouring over a fall. That word 'tangi,' often used for weeping, is applied also to sounding or chanting."

#### Good Against Evil

Mr. Bell gave a vivid picture of the self-sacrificing work of missionaries for the good of the Maori people against the forces of evil—the lawless European beachcombers, many of whom were convicts escaped from Australia and deserters from whaling ships. These vicious exploiters were trying to filch huge areas of land from the Maoris for a mere pittance of money or a bartering with muskets and liquor.

Therefore Maori chiefs through the missionaries petitioned the British Crown to take necessary action. Hence came the appointment of James Busby as British Resident at the Bay of Islands in 1833, but he had no effective executive power to squelch the lawless exploiters. However, his sympathetic study of the Maori people, his learning of their language and his intelligent outlook enabled him to be of great assistance to Captain Hobson, whose arrival also came as the result of a request from Maori chiefs.

#### British Way of Justice

"Not then nor at any later stage did there exist the slightest idea of seizure or acquisition of these islands by conquest," declared Mr. Bell. "The purpose was not seizure but protection. In that fact lies the basis of Britain's success in colonisation and the linking of all parts of the British Empire with bonds of gossamer lightness, elastic and free, but stronger and more powerful than the heaviest manacle wrought in iron.

"It is just these things to which we in this Society seek to pay homage and perpetuate. I feel with confidence that I give voice to all your thoughts if I submit that far, far removed from the objects of our Society and the outlook of its members is any thought of personal aggrandisement through pride of lineage. Rather, as I believe it and I take your concurrence for granted, do we seek to perpetuate for this and succeeding generations the spirit of the pioneers and to preserve in undimmed memory the firm cementing of New Zealand as a small but indispensable cornice in the great edifice we call the British Empire."

#### Preparations for Treaty

Via Australia, Captain Hobson, on H.M.S. Herald, entered the Bay of Islands on 29th January, 1840. He had the authority of British Consul, empowered to negotiate with the representative Maoris for cession of New Zealand to the Crown and, if necessary, he was to act as Lieutenant-Governor, under the Governor of New South Wales. New Zealand was not declared independent of New South Wales until 1841.

Promptly, at Hobson's direction, Busby drafted an invitation to all Maori chiefs of the district to meet in conference. Colenso, who had set up a printing press at Pahia, worked all night to print the invitations, which were sent out far and wide by messengers on the 30th January. With the help of Henry Williams and Busby's draftsmanship, the fateful treaty was printed in Maori and framed in readiness for the conference.

#### Simplicity of Treaty

"The splendour of the treaty document lies in its simplicity," said Mr. Bell. "For some reason or other, not easily understood, vague misconceptions as to its contents seem to be manifested occasionally.

"It consists of but three Articles which I condense to their simple essentials thus:—

Under Article I the signatory Chieftains ceded to Queen Victoria of their free volition, sovereignty over New Zealand.

Under Article II, it made provision that no Maori should be under obligation to part with his land or fishing or forestry rights, but that, if he should elect to do so, the Crown should have the right to pre-emption. The sole purpose of this Article was to prevent exploitation of the Maoris by dangling before their eyes glittering but inadequate inducements in the shape of muskets, blankets and the like.

Under Article III the promise of the British Crown was made that thenceforward New Zealand should receive its Royal protection and enjoy all rights and privileges as British subjects.

#### Night of Destiny

Using sails from the Herald the crew set up on the Waitangi lawn a marquee to accommodate 600 people

who met there on the morning of 5th February to discuss the treaty. "Time wore on," said Mr. Bell, "and it became evident that conclusion could not be reached that day and that the meeting must be adjourned until the morrow—the now historic 6th of February.

"If ever Destiny held the fate of this country in delicate balance, it so held it during that anxious night of the 5th/6th February; on the one hand were the beachcombers, the natural opponents of anything related to law and order, striving by every device of debauchery at their command to dissuade the treaty's adoption and on the other side were the Missionaries labouring in its advocacy—their sole motive the welfare of those they sought so earnestly to tend. And over all was the very real risk which an inadequate commissariat entailed, the very imminent danger that the Maori might be faced with choice of returning home for an ample meal or remaining in hunger, to consider and adopt an arrangement of the wisdom and potential benefit to him he was by no means certain or convinced."

#### Triumph of Right

After some vigorous opposition, particularly from the powerful Te Kemara, the advocates of adoption won on the second day "through the personality and superb compelling oratory of Hone Heke, the first to append his signature to the treaty. His name appears as the third because two following signers put their names above his."

"Truly," concluded Mr. Bell, "New Zealand's genesis dates from that moment. How right therefore is the Founders Society's insistent urge that the 6th of February should be proclaimed and recognised as New Zealand Day and how glad I am to be able to inform you that when at your request, I made that submission to the Waitangi National Trust Board, the Board adopted unanimously a confirmatory resolution."

## To Save Historic Places

"As President of the Society, it has been my pleasant duty to be associated with representatives of other organisations in support of the Historic Places Bill, introduced by Mr. D. M. Rae," says Mr. Duff Daysh. "The Bill, which won very favourable comment from National and Labour speakers, has been referred to a Select Committee of eight members. They will travel through the country during the recess, and submit a report to Parliament in 1954. The Bill is assured of a worthy place in the Statute Book."

## Auckland Branch Active

The Auckland Branch continues its activities. At the last function the guest speaker, Mr. George Fowlds, gave a lecture on "The Volcanic Cones of Auckland," illustrated by lantern slides.

The secretary reports that arrangements have been made for future functions to be held in the Arts Society's rooms in the Victoria Arcade, which will prove much more convenient, particularly for older members, as there is a lift to the front door.

This improvement will also enable more regular functions to be held in the coming year.

## Splendid Example of Ida Bull

That zealous worker for the New Zealand Founders Society, the late Miss Ida Bull, who was a member of the Dominion Council, gave a final inspiring remembrance of the Society with a bequest of £50. The Society has received numerous gifts from members during their lifetime, but this is the first bequest, a good example for other well-wishers.

Miss Bull was also a generous helper of the Wellington Free Ambulance, which has shown its gratitude in the dedication of a new ambulance in her honour.

## Obituary

The Society's executive regretfully reports the deaths of Mrs. W. M. Jeffries, Mrs. A. M. Carroll, Miss V. A. Turton and Mr. George Cooper (all of Wellington), and Mrs. M. Dakin (Wairarapa).



## New Members

The following new members have been elected since the last circular was issued:—

Name.	Place.	Ship.	Date.	Ancestor.
Mrs. H. Henley	Remuera	(1) Libertas (2) Robert Small	1856 1860	Lock England
Mr. D. J. Fechney	Christchurch	Bolton	1840	Clarkson
Miss K. M. Clark	Auckland	Thames	1849	Clark
Miss I. E. Walters	Auckland	Elora	1847	Walters
Mr. B. H. Bedggood	Auckland	Patriot	1836	Bedggood
Mr. T. M. Barrett	Wanganui	Blenheim	1842	Tuffin
Mr. A. J. McLuskie	Wellington	Mariner	1849	Stirling
Mrs. J. E. Percival	Eastbourne	Fifeshire	1842	Moore
Mrs. L. Smith	Auckland	Elora	1848	Walters
Miss K. F. Nimmo	Wellington	Lord William Bentinck	1841	Phillips
Mrs. E. A. Nimmo	Wellington	Lord William Bentinck	1841	Phillips
Mrs. B. E. Reed	Auckland	—	1840	Villers
Mr. A. K. M. Clark	Auckland	Thames	1849	Clark
Mrs. M. E. Walker	Auckland	London	1840	Hay
Mrs. M. A. Lloyd	Christchurch	Cornwall	1849	Blair
Mr. R. R. Steer	Plimmerton	Aurora	1840	Barrow
G/Capt. F. R. Newell	Paekakariki	Oriental	1841	George
Mr. G. F. W. Newell	Paekakariki	Oriental	1841	George
Miss W. A. F. Newell	Paekakariki	Oriental	1841	George
Mrs. W. M. P. Gordon	Eastbourne	Fifeshire	1842	Moore
Mrs. B. C. Blanchette-Burton	Christchurch	Indiana	1858	Jones
Mr. P. Andrew	Poverty Bay	(1) Blenheim (2) Westminster	1841 1857	Morrison Andrew
Mr. C. H. Greaves	Wanganui	Arab	1841	Greaves
Miss D. G. McLuskie	Wellington	Mariner	1849	Stirling
Miss M. A. Cooper	Wellington	(1) Aurora (2) Martha Ridgway	1840 1841	Carter George
Mr. A. G. W. Judd	Whakatane	(1) Bolton (2) Bengal Merchant	1840 1840	Judd Lansdale
Mr. B. C. Adam	Whakatane	Phillip Laing	1848	Adam
Mr. H. D. London	Whakatane	Clifton	1841	London
Mr. M. Macky	Auckland	Duke of Portland	1849	Macky
Mrs. A. E. Lau	Khandallah	(1) Mariner (2) Randolph	1850 1850	Wilson Williams
Miss R. C. Ffitch	Khandallah	Sir George Pollock	1851	Ffitch
Mrs. I. E. Roberts	Levin	Midlothian	1851	Cox
Mrs. E. R. Dunningham	Auckland	North Star	1845	Sutherland
Mr. R. M. McEwen	Lower Hutt	Bengal Merchant	1840	McEwen
Miss N. M. Willcox	Wellington	Isabella Hercus	1851	Willcox
Mrs. Y. A. Riddiford	Karori	—	1856	Robinson
Miss C. Foster	Levin	(1) Phoebe Dunbar (2) Joseph Fletcher	1850 1858	Chisnall Foster
Mr. E. H. A. Furby	Seatoun	Maori	1858	Furby
Mr. A. B. Farmer	Wellington	Lord William Bentinck	1841	Farmer
Mrs. A. Warren	Auckland	Elora	1848	Walters
Miss E. C. Gee	Auckland	Sir George Pollock	1851	Gee
Mrs. D. M. A. Speedy	Auckland	(1) Timandra (2) Pilgrim	1842 1849	O'Neill O'Neill
Mr. A. E. Price	Auckland	John Wickliffe	1848	Cargill
Mrs. I. M. M. Davey	Paremata	Gertrude	1841	Daysh
Mrs. L. Gledstone	Wellington	—	1843	Rhodes
Mr. A. J. C. Woodford	Wellington	Cornwall	1853	Bunker
Mrs. D. E. Burton	Wellington	William Bryan	1841	Wood
Mr. A. H. Macandrew	Eastbourne	Titan	1851	Macandrew
Mrs. M. B. Campbell	Khandallah	Lord William Bentinck	1841	Farmer
Sir William Goodfellow	Auckland	Lady Lilford	1840	Goodfellow
Mr. P. S. Gee	Auckland	Sir George Pollock	1851	Gee
Mrs. R. M. Watson	Auckland	Cuba	1840	Smith
Miss S. K. Spry	Wellington	—	1845	Foy
Mr. E. S. Gale	Karori	Phillip Laing	1848	Weatherburn
Rev. R. Dun	Otorohanga	John Wickliffe	1848	Brebner



## "It Can Be Done."

—E. G. Wakefield.

Many a time, Edward Gibbon Wakefield, when faced by a difficult task, said: "It can be done"—and it was done. Members of the New Zealand Founders Society need no reminder of Wakefield's power of will which overcame tremendous obstacles.

How much of such willpower will a member of the Society have to exercise in bringing an eligible friend or relative into membership during 1954? Such a New Year resolution should not be hard to convert into reality. It can be done by any member who has a proper appreciation of the great Wakefield's words: "It can be done."

If it is not done, the failer will fall far short of the Wakefield way, the Wakefield "will to win."

—Duff Daysh.