

Miss Burgess has sent medical
 certif for absence until 10.8.42
 Miss G. E. Civil absent
 Mr. McCast
 Mr. W. L. Lavin resumed duty
 Sept 13
 Mr. Inspectors present
 Sept 16
 Mr. Inspectors terminated annual
 Sept 19
 Mr. C. C. Cullen absent
 resumed duty

book on 25th May, 201 pupils of this school
 were transferred under the Educational Board's
 order.

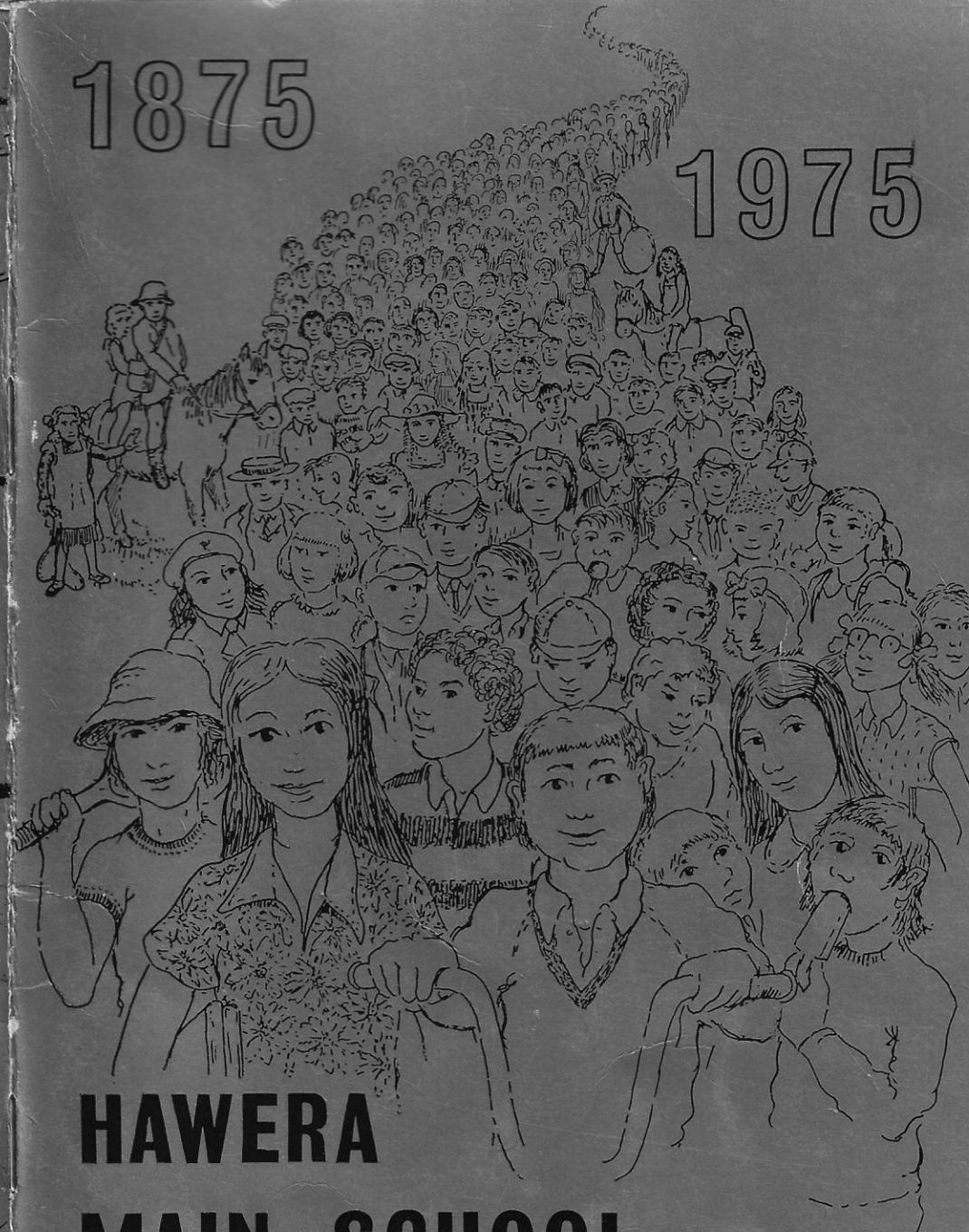
Swimming classes
 in fall sewing.

J. Cowan
 At Boardmaster
 9th May, 1953.

A vast imp
 has been accompa
 is concerned it has not yet been
 to take decided action but teachers
 in charge of class rooms have been
 instructed to report to me if necessary
 J. R. Nairn

1875

1975

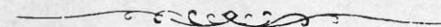


**HAWERA
 MAIN SCHOOL
 CENTENNIAL**

Hawera Main School Centennial

1875 - 1975

THE STORY OF OUR SCHOOL
AND ITS DISTRICT



Compiled by ALISON ROBINSON

Front Cover by N. ARMOND



Present Principal, Mr. Colin M. Smith

Foreword

One Hundred Years have passed and we are gathered to celebrate an Historic Event, The Centenary of a Grand School, Our School. Over just one weekend, memories of a lifetime will be exchanged, history will be caught up with, old acquaintances will be renewed and no doubt new friendships struck. To this end, we as a committee hope your efforts in attending have been worthwhile and these efforts are rewarded with something of joy to look back on in the years to come.

Hawera Main School has an enviable scholastic record and many old pupils have distinguished themselves with merit in their chosen fields in just about every corner of the globe. I have every confidence in the school, its teachers, administrators and the present and future pupils to continue this record.

We now look forward as we must do and I know you will all join with me in wishing our school well as it heads towards its second centenary.

Because of distance, health and employment difficulties, not everyone could attend and to them, all of us thank you for your thoughts and say we wish you could be with us.

CENTENARY COMMITTEE



Centennial Committee

Mr C. Hatchard, Mr A. MacRae, Mr J. Philip, Mr A. Hughson, Mr M. Pollock, Mr. A. Dietschin, Mrs J. Drake, Mr C. Smith, Mrs P. Chadwick (Secretary), Mr R. Neale (Chairman), Mr J. Parker, Mrs B. Dobson, Mr T. Kilmister.

Historical Background of Hawera District

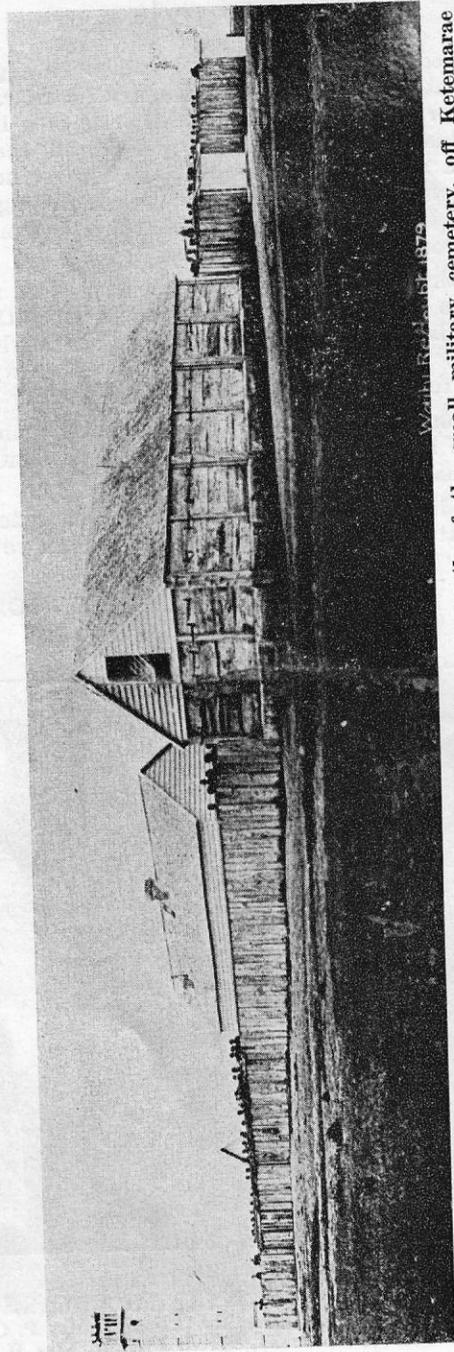
On each side of modern Hawera were the coastal villages of the "Tangata-Whenua" (the moa-hunter peoples). Possibly as long as a thousand years ago, these peaceful folk lived in river-mouth settlements such as that at Ohawe where sea erosion has destroyed so much. We know that they called Mt. Egmont "Puke-haupapa", and Waingongoro River was "Wai-aro-riri" (angry water) but apart from this, and a few artifacts which have been found, we know very little; for the Maoris who followed, inter-married with them, defeated them, enslaved them and took over their villages which they often converted into forts and wartime strongholds.

TURI'S LEGEND

There is an old legend that when Turi's people first came to Taranaki they had called in at "Rangitahua" (supposed to have been the Kermadec Islands) and collected seed of the Karaka tree. When they arrived at the Patea river mouth, they found a tribe led by Taikehu in possession. The two tribes agreed to live peaceably and eventually inter-married. The newcomers planted their karaka seed—a little inland on the north bank and named the place "Papa whero". Erosion gradually removed the resultant karaka grove until by the late 1880's it had all gone. They made their homes on the south bank and Rev. Hammond said that the place name should really have been Pawa-tea (the Pa with the clear outlook). Some of these people later moved north to a spring at Otaraite which was between the two good fishing grounds of Whitikau and Kaitangata. When some of the tribesmen moved south, Turi's daughter Taneroa, is said to have stood in the river and cursed them, thus giving the name "Tupatea" (standing in the river).

LARGE POPULATION

In Maori times the area between the Whanganui River and the Waingongoro River was the second most populous part of New Zealand after Northland. Our own area must have supported a very large population, for within eight miles of Hawera were sixty village sites, seven of them fully fortified strongholds of stone-age Maoris and all said to have been so close together that they were within hailing distance of a strong-voiced man. Some of them were not occupied when white people first saw them. By early 1800 white people were being seen at times in New Zealand, but not in Taranaki.



Waihi Redoubt in the 1870s. The site is now in pasture, 10 yards south of the small military cemetery, off Ketemarae Road, West of modern Normanby.

MAORI VILLAGES IN THIS AREA

1. TE RANGA TAPU—At Ohawe on East bank of Waingongoro river. A Moa-hunter settlement and later Nga Ruahine hill pa.
2. TE KAWAU—At Ohawe. Clifftop Pa on Hawera side of river mouth. Higher than Te Ranga Tapu. Now lost by erosion.
3. OHAWE-TOKOTOKO—At Ohawe. On a clifftop, on Hawera side of Waingongoro River. Not at the mouth, this Pa had no fishing rights at the mouth. Ngati-tupaea branch of Ngati-ruanui.
4. OKAHU-TITI—A sister pa to Te Ranga Tapu. On Waingongoro River in a fold of the river near the power house on present Normanby-Okaiawa Road.
5. RANGITOTO—At Ohawe. It was then half a mile inland on west cliff above a bend in the Waingongoro.
6. KOPAKI—At Ohawe. Low on the Waingongoro bank opposite Rangitoto.
7. PUKEOHA (also written PUKEAWHA)—At mouth of Waihi Stream.
8. PUKETI—At the mouth of Mangamingi Stream.
9. PUKETARATA—Three quarters mile west of Puketi.
10. KETEMARAE—A large fortified Pa at junction of several war trails and Whakaahurangi Trail. (Present Normanby site.)
11. TE RAMANUI—By Hawera Hospital. A sacred place. A tohunga's seat of learning.
12. TAUPATATE—At Nolandtown. Had an underground tunnel to a spring.
13. OTAPAWA—On a high position on banks of Tangahoe Stream. One mile N.E. of bridge on Ohangai Road. A Hau Hau village. Site of Battle of Otapawa in 1866. Destroyed by Gen. Chute.
14. WAIOKENA—A coastal pa 2½ miles S.E. of Hawera. A preaching place.
15. MANAWAPOU—On South bank of Ingahape (Manawapou) River. 1½ miles South of Hawera. 3 miles from Manutahi. There was said to be a bad taniwha at river mouth.
16. TE RUAKI—3 miles E.N.E. from Hawera. On banks of Tangahoe River, on a long high spur. Now in Whareroa Maori reserve, by bridge on Meremere-Ohangai Road).
17. WAIMATE—At mouth of Kapuni River on East bank. The pa where Betty, wife of Capt. Guard, and her children were held captive for five months in 1834 when their barque "Harriet" was wrecked.
18. ORANGI-TUAPEKA—On west bank at mouth of Kapuni River opposite Waimate Pa.
19. TE HAWERA—A village of the Titahi people 1½ miles S.E. of Hawera, 1¼ miles then from coast. Burned out in a vengeance raid hundreds of years ago. Deserted.
20. TAUMAHA (TAUMAOHA)—Near Taumaha Road by the Otapuae Stream which runs into the Manawapou River.
21. OHANGAI—A large Pa S.E. of Hawera. On Matangara Road near cemetery and at the back of Brewer's farm.
22. WAIPAPA—A village at Ohangai where Wiremu Neera lived, who first preached the Christian Gospel when he returned from slavery at Hokianga.
23. MAWHITIWHITI—A settlement by Hastings Road destroyed by Gen. Chute in 1866. Chief kainga of Nga Ruahine.
24. WAITOTO—A small village near Mawhitiwhiti. A preaching place.
25. KETEONETA—By Turuturu Road towards Austin Road. Destroyed by Gen. Chute 1866.
26. WARAWARANUI—A preaching place.
27. AHIPAIPA—North of Ohawe. Near Ahipaipa Road. Destroyed 1866.
28. WERIWERI—A kainga near Hastings Road. Destroyed 1866.
29. PUKEKOHE—A settlement at Kaipokonui.
30. NGA TIKI—By Tawhiti Road near Ohangai Road crossing.
31. WAIOKURA—This side of Manaia on banks of Waiokura Stream. about 2 miles from the coast.
32. TE PUNGAREHU—A Hauhau village at Junction of Ahipaipa and Tempsey roads. Battle site in 1866.
33. MATANGI—A kainga of the Ngati-Tu. On the Kaipokonui River, on high land behind the cliff head.
34. TAURATAI—At Kaipokonui beach. On hill side facing the sea where the dressing sheds were. (A kind Taniwha was said to live in the pool above the swimming hole. The famous Oranga Fishing grounds extended from Kaipokonui mouth halfway to the Otakeho mouth. The sacred burial place of OTAMARE was in the sandhills here.
35. AKOAKOA—A naturally strong fortress of the Ngati-Tu at the mouth of the Otakeho River, high up on the East side.
36. NGATEKO—At the mouth of the Kapuni River.
37. TE POPIA—Village a little way N.E. of Normanby.
38. MATARIKI—A clearing in the heavy bush near Ketemarae, Normanby.
39. MANGAMANGA—Just west of Normanby, off Ketemarae Road. On a rise about 100 yards south of a small cemetery now. This old Pa site was taken over and turned into the WAIHI REDOUBT.
40. MATANGARA—A kainga by Matangara Road just outside Hawera now.
41. TE MARU O TE WHENUA—Across Waingongoro River. A large village. A Hauhau fort in 1868. Between Te Ngutu and Ahipaipa Road.
42. TE NGUTU O TE MANU—The fortified village where Titokowaru had his headquarters. Near Skeet Road and beyond Okaiawa. Scene of three attacks. Major Von Tempsky killed here.
43. TE WHENUKU—An important kainga near Whenuku Road. Destroyed 1866.
44. TE HAURANGA (also called KAHUKURA-NUI)—A Ngati Ruanui fort. On sec. 294 Block II Hawera S.D. East of Mokoia. May be seen from Noonan Road. On hilltop above Otoki Stream.
45. TE PAREPARE—A Ngati Ruanui fort. A large important stronghold on a big isolated hill ¼ mile north of Te Hauranga. On Section 279 Block II Hawera S.D.
46. Te AWA MATENGA—A Ngati Ruanui fortified village. On the end of a high spur above the Otoki Stream. On section I Block II H.S.D.
47. TE PORO PORO—Another Ngati Ruanui fort on the same survey block but a little way east of Te Awa Matenga. On high land the same side of the Otoki Stream.
48. TE TAUA NUI—Fortified Ngati Ruanui Pa. Also on banks of Otoki Stream but on a high spur on opposite bank from Te Poro Poro and Te Awa Matenga.
49. PUKEMUKO—Fortified Ngati Ruanui Pa. A small strong fort on the very high spur with one side sloping very steeply down to the Pukemuko Gorge. On a scenic reserve mis-called by Pakehas "The Poke-A-Moke Gorge".
50. TAKE RUAHINE—An extensive and very ancient Pa. It is 1¼ miles east of TE PAREPARE on Sections 4 and 5 Black 12 Hawera S.D. It was a Ngati Ruanui fortified Pa and later a Christian preaching place.
51. TURUTURU MOKAI—A Ngati Tupaea Pa deserted since about 1600 when a massacre followed a tattooing session leaving a tapu and a legend of bitterness so strong that it was not discussed.
52. WHAREROA—East of Tawhiti Road by the Ohangai Road. Destroyed 1866.
53. TIROTIRO MOANA—East of Eltham. A large kainga with large gardens destroyed by Gen. Chute 1866.
54. TAIPOROHENUI—Near Ohangai Road. Headquarters in 1865-66 of the prophet Te Ua Horopapere Haumere who founded the Pai-marire or Hauhau religion. Had a huge Nui pole. Destroyed 1866.
55. POKAIKAI—Settlement south of Taiporohenui. Destroyed 1866.
56. MEREMERE. An old Kainga by Wairere Road. Destroyed 1866.
57. MANUTAHU—By Taumaha Road. General Camerons troops constructed a redoubt here on the old Pa site in 1865.

58. WHAKAMARA—By the Ingahape Road. This village had a Hauhau Nui pole said to be between 70 and 80 feet high. Destroyed by Colonel Whitmore in 1869 while pursuing Titokowaru.
59. ARAKUKU—On present day Mountain Road near Normanby, and a bird sanctuary.
60. There was a small village by the site of the Central Hotel in Hawera. It was on the banks of a tiny stream which once flowed (now piped) past the site of the Old Hawera Main School towards Pease's farm where it emerges.
61. NGARONGO PA—At the north end of the large Ketemarae clearing. Pepe Heke's kainga near Normanby—it had 30 or 40 inhabitants in the early 70s.
62. UTINGA PA—A small kainga east of present Normanby Railway Station. Had about 1 dozen of Hone Pihama's people in residence in 1871.
63. A large Pa was sited at the junction of South Road and Ohangai Road (1880s) Te Aka lived here (died 1939).
64. HUKATERE PA—Near Kakaramea. Occupied 1860s. People here later moved south and established Pariroa Pa.

MUSKETS

The Maoris were very impressed with the White man's muskets. The White men were impressed with land and the trade potential of prepared flax. Around 1830 a musket was worth 8 large hogs and 3 tons of potatoes or a large quantity of prepared flax. That year the flax trade was worth £26 000 and many Maori chiefs put their whole tribe to preparing flax to trade for muskets. There were somewhere between 100 000 and 200 000 natives in New Zealand when the whites first came. By 1819 the Bay of Islands' natives had several hundred muskets, some of them double barrelled, and were regarded with terror for hundreds of miles around. In 1821 Hongi returned from his visit to England. On his way home he exchanged all the gifts he had received for 300 muskets. He proceeded to terrorise his old enemies. He killed 1 000 near Auckland, 1 000 near Thames, another 1 000 in the Waikato and probably 2 000 Te Arawa tribesmen on an island in Lake Rotorua. The idea caught on and Waikato recovered enough to launch armed raids on Kawhia and Taranaki, which left the province almost cleared of Maori people. Some Kawhia and Taranaki warriors joined the Ngati-Toa chief Te Rauparaha in ravaging the Cook Strait and South Island people and this fighting, coupled with the effects of White man's diseases left 40 000 Maoris dead and it was 100 years before they regained their former numbers.

EARLY WHITE MEN

By 1838 there were said to be 2 000 whites in the country. Six hundred of these were in the Bay of Islands and with a few notable exceptions have been described as the dregs of society, being runaway sailors, escaped convicts, fraudulent debtors from Sydney and generally unprincipled adventurers.

The exceptions were mostly missionaries who worked quietly among the Maoris gaining their respect and spreading their message. When the raids on Taranaki were happening, many Maoris fled south, some even went as far as the Chathams but many hundreds were taken to Hokianga as slaves. When in time the Wai-

kato tribes accepted the Christian message, they felt they should no longer keep slaves and the Taranaki ones were released. When the released slaves returned to Taranaki their fellow tribesmen were also returning from their exile in the south. The ex-slaves were keen to share the Christian message with their kinsfolk but the message was received with suspicion. The first Christian missionary to South Taranaki is said to have been the slave Wiremu Neera (William Naylor) who came from the village of Waipapa near Ohangai. Slowly their message began to be accepted. Christian Maoris began to meet here and there in church houses to worship and study together.

TARANAKI AND WHITE MEN

Taranaki's earliest recorded contact with White men was in 1834 when the Barque "Harriet" was wrecked on the coast and Captain Guard's young wife Betty and her children were captured and taken to Waimate Pa at the mouth of the Kapuni River. Warships were sent and cannons fired and they were rescued. (This beach is referred to in this book as "Harriet's Beach" or "Betty Guard Island"). In 1841 the first boat load of settlers arrived at New Plymouth and they almost starved when the next boat with more provisions on it was months overdue. There were some Maoris in the area but they too were short of food due to the destruction caused by enemy tribes. Settlers learned the value of sea food which the Maoris knew and also found the curly buds of fern trees could be made into sweet pies. In 1842 news reached South Taranaki that the Methodists had appointed a missionary to their area but there was no boat available to bring him and his wife from Kawhia. A party of Christian Maoris then set off to meet them and escort them overland. The route home lay over the ranges to Waipa, thence by canoe and portage to the Mokau River, down the river (shooting the rapids on the way to the coast) and then round the coast, hoping to dodge the tides and not be caught between cliffs and the sea. Thus arrived in Taranaki, Rev. and Mrs. Skevington. They chose a site on the banks of the Inaha stream (on Nixon's farm on Rainie Road now) and called it "Heretoga". Skevington's parish extended from Oeo to Waitotara and included the large population at Ohawe. There were 400 Ngati Ruanui people and 1700 total and though they made the missionaries very welcome they refused to sell them any land which they valued very highly for sentimental reasons, as the home of their ancestors. More and more settlers came to New Plymouth and the land companies felt sure they had bought land for them either from a few men who were not the real owners, or from conquering Waikato tribesmen or from exiles in the Sounds. Slowly it dawned on the company men that land ownership was not as simple as it looked. Who WERE the real owners?

BUSH TRACK CUT

In 1842 the Government agent at New Plymouth had ordered the cutting of a track through the bush from New Plymouth to

Ketemarae Pa. This bridle track was to follow roughly the well known Whakaahurangi Trail of the Maoris. The Pa at Ketemarae was important because it lay at the junction of several war trails. Edward Gibbon Wakefield was taken through this "Nairn Track" the following year and was most impressed with the scenery, but South Taranaki was still Maori country.

MISSION WORK

Bishop Selwyn made a visit here from Whanganui and preached at the Maori village of Waiokena on the coast about 2½ miles S.E. of modern Hawera. Rev. Whitely was working in North Taranaki at this time and baptised a promising young Maori lad called Titokowaru with the baptismal name of Hohepa. When Rev. Skevington decided to attend the Methodist Synod meeting in Auckland in 1845 he took Titokowaru and several other companions with him. Great was their sorrow when during a service there, Rev. Skevington collapsed and died in a front pew in the old High Street Church, and his friends had to make a sad journey back to Heretoga with the news. Rev. Woon, who was appointed to succeed him was a big Cornishman with a powerful musical voice. (The ex-slaves said it reminded them of the pipe organ at Hokianga.) He stayed at Heretoga till 1853 often commenting on the danger of the beach path to his southern preaching places, for the cliffs were likely to fall at any time. His wife planted pheasant-eye daffodil bulbs at Heretoga and they still bloom each October. In 1942 a large stone was taken from Heretoga and placed in front of the Hawera Methodist Church, with some of these bulbs, to mark the centenary.

STILL THEY COME

Though the Maoris were prepared to welcome some white people, they never expected so many to arrive or that they would be so desperate to buy land. In 1852 there were several thousand settlers in North Taranaki and the province of New Plymouth was declared. Maoris viewed with increasing alarm the pakeha fondness for making roads and buying and selling land at a profit. In 1854 an historic gathering was organised just south of Hawera. The Ngati Ruanui people built two very large meeting houses, laid in enormous stocks of food and invited friends and former foes from far and wide to discuss land sales. The matter was thoroughly debated and vows were taken solemnly at dead of night, many of those present vowing to die rather than let land fall into pakeha hands. By 1858 the New Plymouth settlers were very frustrated. Many still waited for their promised farms and when the Governor visited they urged him to act. There were about 1 000 British Imperial troops stationed in New Zealand and in the next five years their numbers increased to about 10 000. New Zealand must have been very difficult to govern then. Each province seemed to be isolated because many roads were only mud tracks and people had to rely on communication by boat. The province of New Plymouth had an agent at Patea which was a small settlement. Soon

settlers outnumbered natives and the Government gave way to pressure to buy land and announced that it would not stand for any more nonsense and that all Maori land north, and later south of the Waingongoro River was confiscated. This was followed shortly afterwards with the news that 50 000 acres would be thrown open for settlement. This news was greeted with joy by the settlers but it was obvious that military power would be needed to back up Surveyors who had worked under difficulties in North Taranaki. Patea became a military barracks with immigration centre and married and single men's quarters.

GOVERNOR GREY

Governor Grey was having trouble with the British Government. They said the 10 000 Imperial troops could stay if the New Zealand Government could pay their salary of £40 a year. The New Zealand Government could not do this, so plans were made to withdraw the troops shortly. To take their place volunteer forces were recruited from settlers, gold miners and other immigrants. These men were offered land if they agreed to serve a certain time and then be available whenever called upon to take arms. A private was granted 50 acres with the option of a further 10 acres in a town block, and free rations if he came and collected them every week for the first year. Higher ranks were to get larger farms but the free rations would not stretch to feed a wife and family and a man could spend days going for them. Had the offer been better many more Imperial soldiers would have stayed here. Before the Imperial troops departed Governor Grey ordered them to march through Taranaki subduing the Maoris.

GENERAL CAMERON

General Cameron (of Gate Pa Battle fame) was in charge. He had already had dealings with Governor Grey and found him deceitful. Cameron had served in the Crimea and in the Indian Mutiny, as had most of his troops. He had come to admire the Maoris, fighting for their ancestral lands and shrewdly saw how the land-greedy settlers and the Governor were trying to manipulate the British troops into a situation where innocent Maoris would be killed. Grey tried to make a fool of General Cameron by telling him to wait for orders and then keeping him waiting till the best weather was over before giving him any. Then Grey ordered him to march 2 000 men up the west coast from Wanganui. Grey himself joined them and insisted on leading the men to a 'victory' against an almost deserted pa which had already surrendered. Cameron moved slowly, making sure of his supply line, erecting redoubts on old pa sites to protect his flank and made his way north round the coast past quick sand at river mouths and through thick bush. The Manutahi redoubt was built on an old pa site and they then moved on to Manawapou near the south bank at the mouth of the Inghape Stream and another was built there where the Te Hawera Pa had been. (This had been burned in a savage vengeance raid

many years before and was deserted. This burning gave it its name.) The famous Kimble Bent here escaped from the army and went to live among the Maoris. Supplies for the two thousand men under canvas were sent in by surf boat to the rocky beach. One day a boat capsized and seven men were drowned. Their bodies were recovered and buried near a bend in the river. (In recent years these graves were moved to the Ohawe Cemetery.) Another important redoubt named the 'Waihi Redoubt' was constructed on the banks of the Waihi Stream on the site of an old pa named Mangamanga (nothing now remains of this important redoubt, except a small military cemetery off Ketemarae Road south-west of present Normanby and a few depressions in a cow paddock just south of the cemetery.) The troops then headed for the Waingongoro river mouth where two bases were set up under canvas at Ohawe on the cliff tops overlooking the basin area. (Erosion has removed a large area of land from the site since then). As an amateur archeologist Governor Grey was most interested in Ohawe, where moa bones were discovered by Rev Taylor in 1843. He asked for volunteers and they found the sand hills still thick with moa bones. Some of the old Maori ovens were opened up and the Governor worked as hard as anyone, thoroughly enjoying it all. It is said that a Maori called Kawana Paipe once told the Governor a yarn about having seen a live moa in his youth. (In 1847 a researcher named Mantell was told by the Maoris at Ohawe that these large bones must have been those of the cows drowned in the 'Flood of Noah's Time'!)

GENERAL CHUTE

After this march General Cameron resigned and was replaced by General Trevor Chute who commanded the volunteer men and the last of the Imperial troops still here. General Trevor had no misgivings about killing noble natives who defended their ancestral lands. He launched a bloodthirsty campaign and while settlers began to arrive he prepared to show who owned the land now. During five weeks at the beginning of 1866 he led his men, (200 of the 14th regiment, 180 of the 57th and 36 of the Forest Rangers under Von Tempsky and 200 of the Native Contingent) on a march of aggression. Beginning at Wanganui they attacked and destroyed as they moved north. They burned down many Maori church houses and with them the copies of the Holy Bible in Maori (an action which the Maoris found very hard to believe.) At the battle for the Otapawa Pa on the Tangahoe banks they lost 11 dead and 20 wounded. They then attacked the famous stockaded village of Ketemarae and as they had three Armstrong field guns they soon defeated that and moved on to take the village of Keteoneta. They followed this up by crossing the Waihi River taking several small villages, including that of Weriwari and then crossing the Waingongoro itself and destroying the Nga Ruahine's main kainga of Mawhitwhiti. General Trevor Chute, no doubt pleased with himself marched his men through to New Plymouth on the Nairn Track cut twelve years before. It had become so overgrown that it took his men nine

days and the track was then called the 'Chute and Nairn Track'. After a stay at New Plymouth the soldiers returned to Wanganui. Meanwhile the 200 men stationed in the Waingongoro Redoubt were not idle either. With Colonel Butler in charge they had marched out with 120 supporting native soldiers in a raiding party that went as far as Tiro-tiro-moana, east of Ketemarae and south-east of Eltham today. Here they destroyed everything, including their fine cultivations just as Chute had destroyed the many acres of garden at Otapawa Pa. On another outing they attacked another pa at Ahipaipa to the north of Ohawe. There seemed to be no one about but while they were destroying it they were fired on so gave chase and with back-up help destroyed another village they came upon. In five weeks Chute destroyed a truly astonishing number of carved meeting houses and valuable Maori things in Taranaki so much so that historians will always remember his burning expedition with shame and sorrow.

SETTLEMENT BEGINS

After this show of strength, town sites were surveyed at Mokoia, Kakarama and Ohawe, but nobody seemed very interested. Crown grants were surveyed for military volunteers and men began to arrive to see what their future farms were like. It is said that many took one look and sold or swapped them for something. A Scots Canadian called Middlemas and his two sons Andrew and Thomas arrived and took land near present day Iredale Road. Near them a man called Douglas came. They constructed a sod fort that became known as the 'Canadian Redoubt'. A Mr James Livingston who fought with distinction in battles against the Maoris took a large block between the Waingongoro and Waihi Rivers with a Mr McMichael. Gideon Inkster, from Shetland Isles took land near Normanby Road (now Waihi Road.) Governor Grey had selected the site of the deserted pa at Turuturu-mokai for a Pakeha Redoubt in 1866 and the 18th Royal Irish regiment built it. (Soldiers took up farms round about Turuturu and lived in the redoubt.)

RELIGION

During the 1860s the Maoris became disenchanted with Christianity as they saw it practised by the white men. In many battles Maoris had died reciting the Lord's Prayer or carrying their Maori Bibles, but slowly they began to develop their own form of Maori christianity. They retained the Bible with the old testament stories they found so stirring and encouraging. These stories gave them courage to fight on for surely God was on their side and pakeha bullets could not harm them. The new faith came to be known as Hauhauism and even Titokowaru became a Hauhau. He had become a natural leader among his people and had his stronghold deep in the bush at Te Ngutu-ote-Manu. In 1867 he proclaimed a year of peace. 'The Year of the Lamb'. Titokowaru visited the main pakeha redoubts on state visits and asked permission to march several times round them (like Joshua and the walls of Jerico.) During this year he made

his way from village to village quietly spreading his plan of action for when the year was over. Because he was closely related to the Ngati Ruanui people he was promised a good deal of support. Although it was an apparently peaceful year the surveyors were still working under armed guard.

'TITO' ACTS

In the middle of 1868 Titokowaru issued a solemn warning to the pakehas to cease travelling on the roads, and then the Maoris began to harass the settlers. Mr Henderson and Mr Luxford were molested as they tried to take up land near Mokoia. Mr Bayly was driven off land at Kakaramea. Mr Hiscox was molested, settlers were robbed of horses and gear. Many women were too afraid to be left alone while their men went for supplies. Stories went round about burnings and killings and many women and children were evacuated to Patea, by dray. At the Waihi redoubt there were 400 soldiers, many of whom had begun to break in their land nearby. One day Sergeant Major Cahill and soldiers Squires and Clarke were pit sawing timber on a block known as Te Rauna (between Normanby and Austin Road today) when they were set upon and murdered. Shortly after this, Trooper Smith left the Redoubt to catch his horse and was shot and horribly mutilated. In accord with an old Maori custom, only his blood-stained legs were found, the rest of him probably being eaten in a cannibal feast. Immediately Rifle Volunteers were sent up from Wellington to strengthen Waihi. Captain Ross was ordered to reoccupy the redoubt made at Turuturu Mokai in 1866. A settler named Morrison had been using it as sheep pens but 25 armed constabulary men arrived and began to get it in order again. It was only 20 yards square and was in a clearing in the flax, fern and koromiko. In the clearing were several whares belonging to local settlers. Round it was a five foot rampart and a six foot trench and inside the walls were six bell tents and a raupo whare used for stores. While the cleaning up was being done the commander and another man slept in whares outside the walls, as did a settler named Coslett Johnson who was breaking in 80 acres at Keteoneta within sight of the redoubt. The spies of Titokowaru called at the redoubt selling onions, so he was well informed about how matters stood there. In frontier garrisons the men were usually called at 3 a.m. and 'stood to arms' until dawn, as Maoris were known to prefer to attack in the hour before dawn.

TURUTURU MOKAI

On 12 July, there was a very heavy frost and the uncompleted plankwalk was very slippery. Because of this two sentries were on duty outside the walls. One of them heard a noise and fired rousing the men, but it was already too late. A swift Maori attack left Captain Ross dead, Mr Lennon dead with his heart cut out, dead and wounded lying inside and out and the whares all burned. The men at Waihi heard the commotion and were told to stand by. Had the mounted troops been told to go at

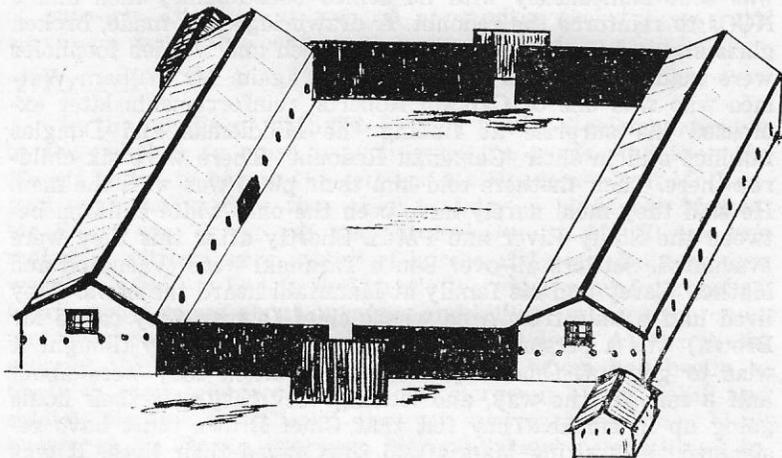
once they might have been some help, but by 7 a.m. it was all over and the whole area was deeply shocked. Captain Roberts was sent immediately with 50 armed constabulary men and 9 NCOs to reinforce the redoubt. A drawbridge was made, broken glass strewed in the bottom of the trench and wooden loopholes were made but it was never attacked again. Mr William Wallace who was one of Captain Roberts' reinforcements later expressed his surprise at finding the Middlemas and Douglas families still in their 'Canadian Redoubt'. There were six children there. Their mothers told him their place was with the men. He said they must surely have been the only white children between the Stony River and Patea. Shortly after this they were evacuated. Settlers all over South Taranaki were evacuated and Mathew Carey and his family at Manutahi heard the news. They lived half a mile from a pa whose chief (a man they called Mr Brown) was a personal friend, but nevertheless they thought it wise to get out. One dray broke down when they were about half a mile on the way, and looking back they saw their home going up in smoke. They felt that Chief Brown must have restrained the waiting Maoris and thus saved their lives. It was late when they arrived in Patea and they were wakened again about midnight with a picket from the redoubt warning them that they must quietly come into the redoubt as the area was under attack. As soon as possible white women and children were evacuated to Wanganui or Nelson by steamer.

REVENGE

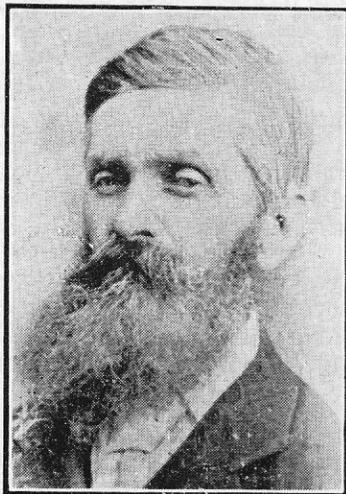
Immediately after the Turuturu Mokai attack the troops set about avenging it. It was the end of August before they had enough men together. By then Colonel McDonnell had 350 men being three division of armed constabulary, Wellington Rangers, Wellington Rifles, Patea Yeoman Cavalry and Taranaki Volunteer Militia. The force was in two parties under Major Hunter and Major Von Tempsky. Von Tempsky was an interesting man, a cultured person and a capable artist whose pictures of the Maori wars are valued today. He could have taken up the land he was granted but seeing the hardship of those who did, he preferred to leave his wife and family at Auckland. (Current prices were — flour £3.3.0 a 200 lb sack — butter 2/6 — milk 1/- a quart — beef 7d a lb — matches 6d a box.) On the first occasion the troops crossed the Waingongoro which was in high August flood and attacked Te-Ngutu-O-te-manu with some success, capturing some ammunition and as usual burning some whares.

TE NGUTU

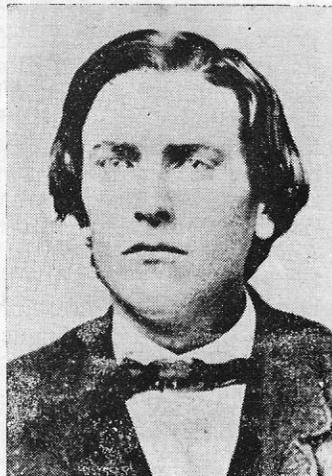
A fortnight later they attempted to do the same thing again with disastrous results. It was September, a bleak, wet, horrible spring month in Taranaki. They set off with 360 men and a half caste woman as guide into heavy bush at midnight. They planned to go round to the back of Titokowaru's stronghold where they thought there might be a Hauhau village, and catch the Maoris



PLAN OF HAWERA BLOCKHOUSE
1870



Mr Kearney, who taught at
the Blockhouse.



Mr Tom Middlemas, first
Chairman Hawera School
Committee.

asleep. It must have been a nightmare trip, cold, dark and frightening. In the blackness it was almost impossible to know just where they were and they were suddenly being shot at by marksmen they never saw. The shots came thick and fast and the men soon decided they must be greatly outnumbered. Von Tempsky got himself in position near the stronghold and waited for the order to attack, but the commander hesitated. The order never came. Officers lay dead and dying and Von Tempsky himself was shot, and the whole affair became a nightmare of confusion. It took the retreating troops hours and hours to make their way back to the redoubt taking their dead and wounded with them. They left on the field five officers and fourteen men, whom they had been unable to take back. It is said that Titokowaru accorded these soldiers an honourable cremation, thus sparing their friends the indignity of a cannibal feast. The first casualty at Te Ngutu was the Patea teacher, Captain Palmer of the Volunteers.

PAKEHAS WITHDRAW

This incident so demoralised the army that troops were withdrawn to Patea. Titokowaru gathered his supporters and set off after them setting up his camp on the banks of the Patea River at Otautu. When Colonel Whitmore's troops launched an attack on them the Maoris ran out of ammunition and were forced to retreat. The troops gave chase and followed them to an island in the Ngaere Swamp (Rawhitiroa). The Maoris knew tracks through the swamp. In the night the soldiers made supple-jack ladders to get across, but in the morning, there was so much confusion over which Maoris were the enemy and which were not, that 'Tito' escaped away back to the Tangohoe Valley, and open warfare was over in Taranaki.

... AND RETURN

When the settlers returned from Nelson and Wanganui, a Blockhouse was built at Hawera on a grassy knoll or small hill, (the hill has been leveled now and on this place is the library, law offices and the old town baths). The Blockhouse was to be a safe refuge in time of war for all the local settlers, taking up land between the Waihi redoubt and the Te Hawera redoubt (Manawapou) and Waingongoro. Military settlers who took 50 acre blocks in the country also had the option of taking 10 acres in the new township of Hawera. The blockhouse was large enough to act as a community centre and was used for all meetings, for services when the visiting clergymen arrived on horseback and for any other purpose. It had bullet-proof double slab timber walls with spaces in between which were filled with gravel. It consisted of two quite long buildings which had look-out turrets and loopholes to fire guns through, and it had pallsided fences at each end, making a square courtyard between the two buildings. Round this community centre the armed constabulary men and the settlers formed themselves into a closely knit group.

Though Dr Walker and Dr Best had been with the troops while the fighting was on, there was no doctor between Patea and Hawera in 1870. Houses began to go up in the district and though flax and fern still grew in High Street in 1872 it had begun to look like a town. In 1871 the coach service from Wanganui was inaugurated. The coach had to be ferried over most rivers. On its first trip it had a V.I.P. passenger, The Premier Sir William Fox. On this occasion the coach was to go right through to New Plymouth. In 1865 the troops had been marched round the coast from Waingongoro to reopen the coast road to New Plymouth, but the area was still Maori country and when the coach reached Parihaka the home of the prophet Te Whiti the Maoris forced it down on the stony beach.

CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT BEGINS

It is inevitable that where there are military settlements, civilians in service industries will move into the area. There were soon men in the carrying business operating drays and waggons between Patea and Waihi taking supplies in for the troops. Storekeepers are usually to be found too, in new settlements. Mr Harry Locker, came to Patea as a small child when his parents opened a store to provision the garrison at Patea Heads about 1861.

In 1931 he spoke about those days. The troops were the 18th Royal Irish, and the famous 57th and 65th Regiments (called 'Hicketty Pips' by the Maoris). There were many supply settlers and some from the Australian goldfields. The navigable river mouth meant little timber scows and other steamers traded regularly. Settlers lived in tin houses, (as there was no local timber), set up by the authorities in sections with a number of tents. He remembered the armed constabulary, mounted police and Von Tempsky with his slogan 'Make Tito run.'

About 1869 the settlers were moved further up the river and the new site was called 'Carlisle' or (Carlyle). Sections were put up for auction with little public interest and the tin houses were sold off for farm sheds.

In 1867 the men at the Patea Barracks were paid 10d a day. Paydays were a wild experience of drinking and gambling. Many officers of the regiment owned fine bloodstock horses and racing them and issuing challenges was a popular pastime. Some of these races were endurance races . . . Patea to Waingongoro and return.

As a lad Harry Locker was employed at the Waihi redoubt and remembered the officers there . . . Captains Capell, Foster and Marshall. He was sometimes sent to Patea to bank money and in the course of his work he met many Hawera settlers, Messrs Livingston, McMichael, Winks, Goodson, Quinlivan, Douglas, Middlemas and Mrs Shepherd. He knew several carriers Treeweek, Spence, Vine, Collins, King, Woller, and Dyer who operated between Patea and Waihi.

SHIPPING

Timber scows operated regularly to Patea bringing in timber. The first regular shipping Co was run by Captain Westrupp and Captain Bennett with the 'Mana' and 'Kiripaka.' They later added the larger 'Kapiti' and 'Arapawa'. A Nelson boat owned by Chris Cross, the 'Waiotapu' called there too.

James 'Baldy' Davidson opened a store in Hawera where news items were displayed as they came to hand. The mail arrived from New Plymouth by means of a coach driven round the beach by a fine Maori nick-named 'Napolean' who came as far as Opunake. Here he was met by Mr Flynn who next day drove his coach round the beach, over the plains and through the ford at Waingongoro to Hawera. The mail was handled by a Mr Kearney at the block house prior to 1872 when Quentin Muir took it over. Mr C. W. Curtis many years ago recalled an accommodation house at Opunake kept by Bartletts, (whose son Jimmy was a well-known Hawera identity). He travelled via 'Harriet's' Beach to Oeo where a Captain Good had another accommodation house.

'Baldy' Davidson later operated deliveries over a wide area of Hawera's outlying districts.

Large mobs of cattle were driven up from the Marton district, crossing the Wanganui River by punt.

FIRST WHITE BABIES

The first white children born in the district are said to have been, Tom Tait, Jenny Livingston, Jim Winks, Steve Adamson and Wally McL'Dowie.

In the late 70s there were said to be 350 men at Waihi under Captain Marshall and Sergeants Riddle and Hattie. The Ohawe military outposts seem to have been mainly under canvas and more temporary.

Normanby township is on the site of the great clearing at Ketemarae. This area was granted to a half-caste, Captain Blake, a well educated military advisor to the armed constabulary who received a grant of about 125 acres. He decided to survey it into sections for a village but had to wait pending the decision of the route for the planned railway line. The line was found to dissect the clearing diagonally forcing a re-arrangement of sections, but leaving many odd shaped ones.

Normanby area was renowned for its excellent heavy timber.

In 1875 the cottage (18ft x 16ft) used as General Chute's headquarters at the Waihi Redoubt, was sold to the Irish Community for a Catholic Church. Their new priest Father Pertuis was due to arrive from France. He proved to be a gentle kindly man who grew flowers, raised white rabbits and was an amateur astronomer. The cottage was used as his home and as a church. A few months after he arrived he started a small school there also. First teachers were Miss Ellen Coakley, Miss Guerin (later

EARLY HAWERA



Photo courtesy Mr J. Buttress.

Hawera's first hotel on a rise fronting High Street and the western side of what was later Union Street. It was burned down about 1908 and temperance interests combined to buy the site.



Photograph courtesy Winzenberg Collection Alexander Turnbull Library

Mrs Austin Whittacker of Auckland) Miss Boylan (later Mrs Kirk). In 1902 Mr Finlay bought it and had it shifted by bullock team to part of the Livingston estate at Tokaora which he had bought. In May 1975 it was occupied by his son, Mr Harold Finlay.

In 1873 Mrs Ann Evans, a widow with five children arrived and opened a small store at Waihi redoubt barracks. She was formerly Nurse Clive, and had spent eighteen months with Florence Nightingale during the Crimea War. There was at that time no doctor between Patea and New Plymouth and she was most welcome. One day a party of Maoris called at her home and took her into deep bush to attend a man with pneumonia. From his description she recognised Titokowaru with his blind eye and stern face. She nursed him for several weeks and the Maoris continued to keep her children supplied with food. When the man recovered he gave her a piece of paper which proved to be a one hundred pound note, protesting that his life was worth more than that and she must take it.

TARANAKI FOREST

Away from European settlement Taranaki became well known for the wild pigs which were everywhere and wild peaches which flourished. Mōa hunter fires had left coastal Taranaki including Hawera with a cover of flax, fern, tutu and light forest. Auroa was in exceptionally heavy bush — enormous rata, with rimu, pukatea, tawa and totara. Ohangai-Meremere area was in dense forest with fine karaka groves at the Pa. Ararata was in heavy forest of mahoe, pukatea, tawa and rata (mainly firewood grade). Whakamara's heavy forest was renowned for its bird life of pigeons, kakas, tuis and quail. Okaiawa was in rata, matai, tawa and supplejacks while Normanby area provided splendid building timber of matai and white pine, which was used for most of Hawera's building.

CROWN GRANTS

The original Crown Grant record map of Hawera Town shows at the bottom of the map an Education Reserve of over 40 acres fronting South Road. This is the site of our Hawera Main School. The township is laid out in three rows of ten-acre sections. On the left fronting Waihi Road are two larger blocks belonging to the Town Board. The upper one is now the King Edward Park area and the lower is subdivided by Dixon Avenue and other streets.

Original owners of the sections fronting South Road opposite the school section (which runs to a point opposite Waihi Road) are, No 1 James Livingston, (also owned the large Toka-Ora block), No 4 James Mitchell, No 7, John Reid, No 10 Bernard O'Riley, No 13 John Black (Postmaster about 1873), No 16 George Hayward, No 17 Patrick Dowell, No 22 Christopher Dowall, No 25 Adam Ramager, No 28 John Malone, No 31 James Davidson.

Sections above these with a frontage on High Street were owned by: No 2 James McMichael (also owned a block at Tokaora). This section also fronted Disraeli Street though it was not named then. No 5 Michael Lynch, No 8 Alexander Winks (lower left corner High and Victoria Streets), No 11 John Stevenson (opposite corner Victoria Street), No 41 Andrew Middlemas (also had 31 acres on South Road). This section also fronted Princes Street.

The next two blocks ran lengthwise one above the other. The lower, No 18 was owned by Patrick Sweeney, and the upper, No 19, Government owned with 1 acre owned by the Town Board and, including the borough chambers. The right half was known as the Government paddock and is now the water tower grounds. No 23 (fronting Collins Street) Daniel McL'Dowie, No 26 Colin Cameron, No 29 Thomas Malone, (No 29 and No 26 fronted Gladstone Street also un-named then), No 32 George White.

On the upper side of High Street were from left No 3 Lawrence Milmo (also 50 acres Turuturu Road), No 6 George Bamford (also 51 acres on Glover Road), No 9 Charles Tait, No 12 M. John Goodson (also 320 acres Waihi Road, No 15 Thomas Middlemas (also 51 acres South Road). The next two sections in the heart of town also run lengthwise one above the other. Union Street did not exist. No 20 owned by Michael Sweeney lies along High Street from Princes to Collins Street. The left half was early very much subdivided for business premises. No 21 above (fronting what is now Grey Street) was owned by William Douglas. No 24 (fronting Collins Street) Gavin Hamilton, No 27 James Cowper. Sections 30 and 33 were Town Board sections. No 30 was the site of the first hospital and 33 is a cemetery reserve. Naumai Park now spreads across the lower half of both. On the right of town are two Education reserves totalling about 96 acres.

A triangle shaped section 35 (owned by the Town Board) which was the military parade ground faces No 21 with Apex near the present Railway Station. To the left is No 34 John Gore, and to the right another 10 acre Education reserve. Another area of 37 acres on Glover and Waihi Road corner is also an Education Reserve.

The triangle (Glover, Waihi, Turuturu Roads) was H. R. Kearney's 22 acres, Hicks' Park area was Thomas Wilson's 52 acres and above Surrey Street were farm areas belonging to George Bamford, J. Livingston and J. Gore.

Farm owners in the school district included Moore Hunter who owned a large area to the left of Waihi Road, and near the school, Mathew Hayes, Charles Mohr, Mr Keane, Parker Roche, William Evans Dive (beyond the Lakes), Charles J. Hutchinson, William Peck, Thomas Meadowcroft, M. Coonan, A. Lough, John Connolly, J. Denby. Chris Dowall (51 acres behind the second section).

The other side of town were, John Glover, P. F. Hosey, Joseph Perry, A. A. Fantham, W. Airth, Isaac Jones, H. C. Morrison, John Reynolds, John Matson, Hugh Robinson, James Gallagher, G. Grant, George Kendall, W. Moule. Beyond the Tawhiti Stream is the Maori land of the Whareroa Reserve. Farms around Turuturu-mokai bear the names of settlers killed there.

Down South Road (and some pupils came in from Tangahoe) were W. Barnes Rhodes, Robert Wilson, Peter Peterson, Middlemas brothers, Charles Mason, S. Norton, P. B. Cahill, J. Garsed, Ed Shea, D. Bennett, M. J. Stewart, W. Dale, D. McL'Dowie, D. Toohill, D. Mundell, John Merrylees, and Dick Hicks.

Joseph Perry (whose farm is now part of the racecourse lived in the Blockhouse as a single settler in 1870. He said soldiers had 10 years to pay £20 for their town sections. Some used 'dug-outs' for farm dwellings for a start). The Town Board and Reserve Sections were finally approved in 1877.

OTHER NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH EARLY HAWERA

C. E. Gibson, helped drive cattle here from the Marton area about 1869. Mr W. Treweek was a travelling butcher supplying the troops about the same time. Mr William Williams was a blacksmith in the late 60s. Mr Shearer was a butcher and Mr J. Winks a butcher and a baker about 1870. Mr A'Court came to work for William Williams as did J. J. Patterson, who with his brother was orphaned at Frankleigh Road by a Maori attack. He and his brother drove cattle round the beach from New Plymouth. He later became a large land owner.

Mr Quentin Muir and Mr Taplin a baker, had the first general store at the corner of High and Princes Streets very early in the 70s. Mr Burton had a brewery in 1872. Mr Quinlivan had a Public House in 1875. (It was known in 1874 as the "Egmont.") Mr T. Espagne had "The Hawera" in 1872. Mr Furlong had a billiard saloon in 1874. Mr A. Newall who was here in 1874 said Mrs Shepherd, wife of the coach driver had a "grog shop" then, Mr Young was also a Cobb and Co Coach driver about 1872.

Mr Cunningham and Mr D. Hurley ran a boot shop about 1874, and at the same time Dingle Brothers and Messrs Davis and Cole were roading contractors and Mr Cockburn ran a blacksmith's on what was later McGruer Bone's corner. Mr George Svme who built the school came here in 1874 with his family, including a son of the same name. His son recalled country settlers Peterson, Hobbs, Buchanan, Siggs, Gore, Sweeney and others were still actually living in the township at that time. He also remembered Mr Adams (a baker), Mr Suiter (a tailor), Mr Meuli (a saddler) and Mr Osterling (a hairdresser).

Mr Sutton, an early settler, was later mayor, Dr Walker, a Dublin graduate who served with the army lived near Normanby in 1875-76. Mr Rhody Slattery, was a well known coach driver who once owned livery stables in Melbourne. Mr Daniel Hughes

and Mr Martin Coffee were ex-war guides for the armed constabulary. Mr Felix McGuire a prominent citizen later M.P. for the district was a supply contractor to the armed constabulary in the early 70s. Mr James Wallace who worked for him in 1878 said that by then the Blockhouse had fallen into disuse. He recalled that wells and springs supplied the town with water.

Mr Austin J. Whittaker came in the late 70s. He had a drapery opposite the Post Office and a store on the same side. H. G. Pitcher was a watchmaker and jeweller and his brother-in-law Thomas Ecclesfield had a store at this time. Mr W. T. Wells was here in 1879 and said O'Reilly's had the 'Shamrock' Boarding House. Mr A'Court was by then the 'Smithy.' Mr Galvin who founded "The Hawera Star" came in 1880. He remembered three hotels. Arthur Owen occupied the 'Egmont' (where the coaches drew up), the 'Empire' was owned by Tom Lloyd and let, and John Prosser owned the "Railway" (Tom Lloyd was bugler at the Normanby Redoubt. He remembered the bandmaster, Mr Dickson, and said the Normanby Redoubt had a tower so that the Waihi redoubt could be signalled in an emergency.)

The settler Mr A. A. Fantham is credited with importing bumble bees to fertilise the clover for seed production and Mr Partridge bred draught horses.

Mr Percy Smith a historian and surveyor, surveyed Hawera by contract living at "The Round-Bush" and working without trig stations. Mr Northcroft was also a surveyor. Early bank managers were Mr W. G. White who was B.N.Z. agent and is said to have kept the safe under his bed in the top story corner bedroom of Hawera's first hotel. He was manager from 1877 for a very long period. Mr G. V. Bate was manager of Bank of N.S.W.

Morrisey's had a stable in what was later Union Street. Mr Max King was a Draper. Mr Furlong had a store and Perry and Siggs were butchers, as was Mr Nicholas. Mr J. (Saint Jimmy) Bartlett was a carrier in the late 70s (his parents had a well known guest house at Opunake for travellers on the beach route). Also known to have been carriers were Messrs J. Stevenson, C. Tait, D. McL'Dowie, J. Redding, J. Dyer, J. Treweek, Robinson, P. Sweeney and Oakes (possibly the husband of Sarah who had a school in the early 70s.)

Carpenters were Messrs T. Fitzsimmonds, R. Lynch, T. Chetham and T. Robinson. Mr C. Tait married the widow of Captain Vincent Messana who was lost at sea with his coastal kauri trading vessel shortly before the birth of his son A. V. Messana (or Tait). Mrs Messana opened a small school in Dixon Street, Wellington, but after her remarriage the family came to Hawera in 1873.

Mrs Isa Home (pronounced "Hume") was Waverley's first school teacher. Her family rode in to Hawera Main from their uncle's place at Waingongoro. Her son was later famous as a doctor.

By an unusual co-incidence, there were TWO men named WILLIAM DOUGLAS associated with the beginnings of Hawera. No 1 farmed in the Nolantown area on the banks of the Tawhiti Stream. He had a son called William Middlemas Douglas and two daughters, Mrs J. Cowper, and Mrs M. J. Campbell. No 2 lived on South Road and was the grandfather of R. B. and J. C. Douglas. Mr McGowan had a brick kiln by the bridge at Tokaora in 1882.

Other early Hawera names are, Adamson, Smith, Watts, Edwards, Partridge, Elliot, Larcom, Bayly, O'Shea, Malone, Synnott, Hurley, Beamish, Hollard, Roper, Butler, Spratt, Caplen, Brunette, Power, Whitmore, Hawke, Ekdahl, Clarkson, Caverhill, Hitchcock, Boyd, Meredith, Mendelsohn, Duffill and Hunter.

Prominent Maori personalities were Rama, Raha, Ahau (of Otakeho), Hukanui Manaia (of Waiokura Pa), Honi Pihama.

POPULATION

Census figures for the actual town of Hawera are:

March 1874: 257.

March 1878: 377 (plus another 157 in the vicinity).

March 1881: 943 (plus another 49 in the vicinity).

In 1875 the white population of the whole of Taranaki was 4 600.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

8 December 1874. First meeting in the Blockhouse of the Hawera Town Board.

1876. Hawera Road Board formed at a meeting in Davidson's Store, Main Street. (The town Board renamed Main Street, "High Street" and named Princes Street officially in 1878, and most other streets were officially named the following year.)

1881. HAWERA COUNTY COUNCIL became separate from Patea County.

1882. Hawera became a Borough.

THE BEGINNINGS OF EDUCATION

Early New Zealand legislation for education was never put into practice. Fitzroy's 1844 Trust Ordinance provided for the education of native children, but nothing was done, and under Grey's 1847 Ordinance, the Government could have set up schools. However, it was always left to private citizens or church groups to think about schools. As New Zealand was a large area mostly of bush, with small settlements here and there, and communication only by sea, round the shore, or by the bridle track, governments were set up in each district in 1852. We were included in the PROVINCE OF NEW PLYMOUTH. When these small governments were set up, nobody actually decided whether education was their problem or was to be left to the Central Parliament. Unfortunately the Provincial Governments met before Parliament sat and thus began twenty years of struggling

Two Early Views of Hawera



Burton Bros photograph—Alexander Turnbull Library



Photo courtesy of Winzenburg Collection—Alexander Turnbull Library

for power, for the small local authorities, assumed it was their job and began at once. There was mounting public concern over the poor standard of education in many parts of the country, and "the number of uneducated louts roaming our streets" at this time.

AID

The New Plymouth council had a few schools operating round New Plymouth, when the settlers returned after the Maori scares. It offered aid to parents who wished to send any child over five to school. This amounted to 3/9 per quarter for a child under 10 years, whose total fees were 6/6 per quarter. For a child over 10 years they offered 5/- towards his fee of 10/-. To qualify for this aid, schools had to submit to an inspection. Mr Robert Eyton inspected them in 1867 and was horrified. Parents were fraudulently claiming aid for the whole family, but paying only one school fee, as they only sent ONE child to school on any one day, the family taking it in turns. Teachers were also doing dishonest things with the scheme. Many North Taranaki people despised education, teachers were regarded as "nine shillings-a-week-drunks" who would get a better job if they were worth it, and indeed Mr H. R. Richmond publicly said as much in an 1873 speech to the council. Financial hardship caused the low salaries paid. £45 a year was a male teacher's wage in 1869 (only about a third of what was paid in Canterbury where education was valued highly. Accommodation was also a problem. The Midhirst teacher was reported to be sleeping behind a curtain in a corner, and at Bell Block, the teacher was re-employed if he promised not to sleep in the school. Many girls were kept at home, in case they met a fierce Maori on the way to school. A series of meetings was held in Taranaki to gauge public opinion. Many parents thought schools weren't a bad idea if the children could stay at home at harvest and busy times. Many got very annoyed, and said everyone was entitled to an education if he wanted one.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The council came to grips with the situation in 1868. They passed a new Ordinance turning the "Trustees for Public Reserves" into a "Board Of Education" which was to continue to collect rent from Education-Reserve land and with its other income to set up a Fund. It was given power to form EDUCATION DISTRICTS, to decide who should get aid, and to dismiss teachers. Education was NOT compulsory and teachers could refuse to teach any child who was dirty, diseased or very naughty. To form a District, local people had to get together and have a meeting of HOUSEHOLDERS (meaning any man over the age of twenty). Many young chaps found these meetings a "source of innocent merriment". Three people were to be elected for a SCHOOL COMMITTEE, which was to be fairly powerful. It could strike a rate of not more than £1 per year per household.

(Chimney tax). It could establish a school, appoint a teacher (but not sack him), fix his salary and the school fees, and receive grants of money and equipment from the board.

HAWERA TEACHERS

The first schools in the Hawera district appear to have been at Waihi and the Blockhouse. Mr Kearney of the armed constabulary had an office in the Blockhouse where he attended to the dispatch and receipt of mail, until Mr Quentin Muir took over as post master in 1872. The Blockhouse also housed the armed constabulary library and in this building Mr Kearney gave lessons in the early seventies. William M. Douglas who attended his classes described him as "a grizzled old Indian mutiny veteran", who loved to appear before his pupils wearing all his war medals! Mr Douglas had a school prize dated 1871 signed by Kearney. (Army personnel were often called on for teachers. Many were well educated and they had certainly been to many parts of the world.) Near Waihi military redoubt a school operating in a private house somewhere in the vicinity, had catered for 15 pupils and Miss MacEacharn taught there and received £40 in aid. This was operating in 1874, but a school was later built to serve Ketemarae and Waihi. A Mrs Sarah A. W. Oakes also had a private-house school in a building which later was on the back of Messrs Bennett & Sutton's section. She taught about a dozen, mostly small children, and her school was recognised in 1873. Lessons were also given in two government immigration cottages, one teacher being Mr Thompson in 1874.

FIRST HAWERA SCHOOL COMMITTEE

About 1872 Hawera residents got together and had a Householders' meeting and elected a school committee. The first chairman was Mr Tom Middlemas. This meeting was probably mid-year as later annual meetings were July. The Taranaki Provincial Gazette for May, 1873 (in the Parliamentary Library), records that Sarah A. W. Oakes received for the first quarter of 1873 the sum of £1-15 from the Education Board for the following 14 children for whom the capitation allowance is given. Julia Byrnes, Andrew Middlemas, Robert Middlemas, Jane Middlemas, Ellen Middlemas, Mary Douglas, William Douglas, William Tate, Alfred Tate, Mary Anne Willis, Frederick Long, Florence Oakes, Lilian Oakes, and Percy Hurrell. (A. V. Tait many years later recalled that the north side of High Street was planted in rows of blue gums through which children walked to reach Mrs Oakes' cottage. Schooling cost parents £2 a year, he said, and for the small boy carrying a half sovereign to school each quarter day, it seemed a very great sum indeed. Victoria Street was known as "Tait's Lane" north of High Street and as "Winks' Lane" running south.)

SHORTAGE OF INSPECTORS

When Inspector Eyton left, the Board of Education in New Plymouth was so short of funds that they decided to go out in pairs and do the inspecting themselves. They therefore paired off — Messrs Cutfield and Upjohn — Messrs Crompton and Knight — Messrs Hulk and Gledhill. Their total income for 1872 had only been £330 and they had spent that by paying the secretary £25 and giving £280 in aid and grants.

MR HARKNESS

About 1873 or 1874 Mr Charles Harkness from Wanganui was persuaded by one of the ministers, who covered their large parishes on horse back, to come to Hawera and be a teacher. He became the school master at a salary of £80 and made a good job of it. He had school age children of his own and was a good all-rounder who even took the girls for sewing lessons. However, he was really a chemist and wanted to open his own business. He had spent some time in Africa with the famous missionary "Doctor Livingston". As there was no residence for the teacher, the committee chairman Mr Middlemas wrote to the Colonial secretary in April 1874, pointing out that Hawera did not want to lose a good teacher, and asking if £1 000 could not be set aside from sales of confiscated land for the building of schools and residences in the area.

TWO BOARDS

At this time, Taranaki was divided into two areas under two Education Boards. The area south of the Waingongoro River, which included Hawera, was to be under the Patea Education Board. It was a good thing the area was divided, for many north Taranaki people despised education and were reluctant to be taxed for it. The FIVE members of the Patea Board who were appointed soon after, were —

Chairman: Captain Wray — He had been a surveyor in India and in New Zealand had done surveying work around Hawera in 1866 with Percy Smith and Mr Williams. He had joined the European Contingent and fought at Te Ngutu. He became quartermaster for the Military forces at Carlyle (Patea), staying on as Commissioner of the Peace and Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Mr Tom Middlemas — One of Hawera's original settlers from Nova Scotia. Served as a Lieutenant in the Militia Volunteers.

Mr James Christie — One of the first settlers at Manutahi.

Mr William Furlong — An early Hawera settler and one of our men on Patea County Council.

Mr John Milroy.

Secretary: Mr William Cowern — Provincial Government agent for Patea. He was an early Patea settler, large land owner,

auctioneer and he had regular cattle sales. His salary was £50 for part-time work.

The members of Patea Board lost no time in building schools within months of being appointed. These schools were identical and were built to the "Wellington Plan". The tender of £313 by Mr North was accepted, but the pressure of work and the time limit involved, meant that the actual job was done by his assistant, Mr George Syme. Mr Syme later went into business on his own account. Many years later when his building tools were sold they were bought by Harold Finlay's father who deposited them in the Patea Museum. Patea Board paid quite good salaries. Mr Harkness received £100 in 1874. In 1875 two more members were added to make seven, and bring the two boards of New Plymouth and Patea to the same strength. Mr Robert England of Kakaramea, farmer, and Mr Donald Coutts were elected.

EDUCATION RESERVES

It was very lucky that Captain Wray was interested in education and was also Commissioner of confiscated lands. He and Mr Middlemas saw to it that the Patea Board was well endowed and in fact better off than most districts. In Hawera alone Education Reserves (Sections 545, 546 and 189) totalling nearly 140 acres were set aside. The "Chimney Tax" brought in £205 in 1875 which means a fairly high rate of collection. In the same year Hawera School "Fees" brought in £26. Their "Dog Tax" also brought in £26 that year. Their income from reserves leased was £376. In 1877 they were able to extract a grant of £3032 from the Colonial Treasury, which was surprisingly large for the size of the area.

ROBERT LEE

The board moved to secure the services of the best inspector they could get, and were fortunate to obtain those of Mr Robert Lee, a big burly man, of the Wellington Board, an outstanding educationalist of his day. It was his idea to have "Half-time" schools where one teacher spent a half day at each of two neighbouring schools. He regarded this as far better than letting one school have a poor teacher all the time. He also introduced the idea of "STANDARD PASSES" which meant that schools were divided into FOUR standards (not six as in later years), which prevented teachers from teaching in a disorganised way. He inspected the Patea area twice and was paid £34-13-0 for his part-time service. He was employed again in 1877 and reported the 282 pupils in six schools progressing, some at Patea had even reached Standard 3.

After six months the Patea Education Board reported and the Provincial Gazette published their report. Hawera, it said had 30 names on the roll but the Blockhouse was "close, ill-ventilated, and very objectionable as a school room." They were confident more children would attend school when the new school was completed.

The Board built schools at Patea, Hawera, Normanby, Manutahi, and Kakaramea. It also tackled the problem of teacher housing and built quite a few teachers' residences. Mr Harold Hardwick Dyer was the Patea teacher, Miss Corrigan (who wrote for the paper under the name "Helas") was at Manutahi, and Mr Robert Temple Brown who had a cork leg was at Kakaramea.

By 1875 Mr Dunne was teacher at the Blockhouse in Hawera. He did not have very good health and was only there a short time. He was away, sick, the day Inspector Lee made his second visit. It is said that the Blockhouse was so dimly lit, he had to light a candle to make an entry in the new log book, which he probably brought with him. He wrote —

"This is my second visit to the Hawera School, in the old Blockhouse, without any suitable furniture. The school as on my former visit, is in a primitive state and the results low. There are 29 boys and 19 girls on the books, of whom 19 boys and 11 girls are present. Eleven boys and five girls have passed Standard 1. Five boys have passed Standard 2 and there are no candidates for Standard 3. The new school is being built on a very suitable plan. The new headmaster is not present owing to illness. He has not been in office long enough to produce results. The copybook writing is slovenly and the organisation very unsatisfactory.

SITE

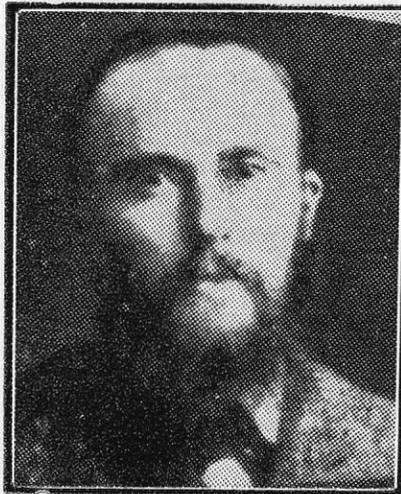
Initially, it is said, local people were divided over the best place for the new school. Some favoured the "Government Pad-dock" now occupied by the Water Tower, some suggested the site now used by the Church of England. The fine pit-sawn timber from Normanby was actually stacked on this site when Mr Middlemas intervened and it was shifted to the South Road. The place finally chosen was way out of town in those days, as there were hardly any houses on that side of High Street. Nevertheless it was a fine large area and the choice was never regretted.

By May 1875 it was completed and HAWERA MAIN SCHOOL was ready to begin its first hundred years.

First Decade 1875-1885



Courtesy of Winzenburg Collection. Alexander Turnbull Library
Princes Street, Hawera about 1880.



Mr Alexander Mair
(Headmaster 1878-1892)



Mr G. Syme,
Builder of the first school

On the first day of the newly built Hawera School, 13 May, 1875, there were about forty pupils present when Mr F. J. Dunne, acting on instructions from chairman, Mr Tom Middlemas, transferred his classes from the Blockhouse to the South Road. Years afterwards, Mr A. V. Tait who was one of them, claimed to have been the first child to enter the new school. It came on to rain quite heavily, he said, just as the children were making their way down the muddy unformed road. They all arrived at school wet, and when the master appeared at the door, they all naturally enough, took it as a signal to enter, and went rushing in excited and boisterous. Mr Dunne, however, bundled them all out again to make a dignified and ceremonious entry.

Mr Dunne may only have been a relieving teacher, at any rate he did not stay long for he was not in the best of health. He was on a salary of £80 a year, which he is said to have received "only in dribs and drabs."

In the middle of winter a bad gale blew down the school chimney only five weeks after the children moved in. The insurance company directed that no fire be lit until such time as the chimney was rebuilt.

The Secretary of the Patea Education Board, Mr Cowern paid a visit to the school six months after it opened and recorded in the log his satisfaction with the lessons given. Mr Dunne left towards the end of the year and a handsome Englishman, Mr Chamberlain had charge for a few months. He was followed by a Mr Thompson, (possibly the man who had pupils a few years before in a Government cottage.) He is remembered as a snuff taking man who had attended a Scottish University. He was in charge for a short time only. It is probable that he was only a relieving teacher.

MR JOHN HARRE

On 26 May, 1876, Mr John Harre began his duties. He is remembered as a good teacher and a good disciplinarian, one who took no nonsense. The well-endowed Patea Education Board was now able to pay at a good rate to get good teachers. When the school had its 25th Jubilee the headmaster at the time, Mr Bates, who was a pupil under Mr Harre, paid him a very warm tribute. "He gave his pupils a wonderful grounding," said Mr Bates. "I personally have him to thank for any success I might have achieved." Looking back on the same occasion, Mr Harre wrote for the "Hawera Star."

Hawera in 1876 was a small settlement with roads metalled only a short distance from the centre of town.

In winter the children had great difficulty in picking their way through the mudholes to school. Attendance naturally suffered. I admired the shrewd local chairman, Tom Middlemas who was also on the Patea Board. He saw to it that the board was well endowed with land at the outset, and this revenue helped to pay what were then considered good salaries of their teachers. While in charge at Hawera I received about £3 a week (£180). We had to be content with one inspection a year, and it was even less in my predecessors' time, for I was third who had charge of the school, Messrs Harkness and Chamberlain preceded me. There were then no organised games in the smaller schools. The big boys played chasing and the smaller ones dug holes in the soft soil near the school. The girls divided their time between skipping ropes and marbles. On wet days pupils were allowed to crowd into the single porch or crawl under the building. There were no shelter sheds. Pupils came from all parts of the district, those from Waingongoro on horseback. Ruby Gore and the Hicks children came from Tangahoe. Only Maoris lived beyond the Tawhiti Stream and it was considered out of the question for them to attend. The curriculum was confined to the three Rs with a little geography and history. (There was quite an outcry when I introduced a little fancy printing and drawing.) In spite of all our drawbacks and there were many, a good foundation was laid, and I understand quite a number of my old pupils have risen to eminence in various professions, law, medicine, the church — and what I consider quite as important, intelligent farmers and tradesmen."

LOG ENTRIES

Early school log books and the first roll have been lost in the fire of 1912 which destroyed records stored in the safe of chairman Mr Bone, in High Street. We are indebted to material quoted in "The Hawera Star" for the following entries.

7 JUNE, 1876. Much inconvenience today. A window in school had to be kept shut because of a smoking chimney.

17 AUGUST. Mr W. M. Douglas appointed a pupil teacher. (He was always a most reliable and helpful lad to each of the teachers from Mr Kearney on.)

NOVEMBER. Visit from Inspector Foulis from New Plymouth. (Of Mr Foulis it is said that he spoke with such a broad Scots accent that children could not understand him and therefore could not pass the exams.)

JANUARY, 1877. A new school has been opened in neighbourhood. The girls' roll has dropped in consequence. (This must have been Miss McCutcheon's Private School for young Ladies' and Gentlemen.)

9 APRIL. Miss Alexander appointed a pupil teacher to replace Mr Douglas.

7 JULY. School closed for two days. Headmaster to attend examination at Patea.

The remaining few log entries refer to the introduction of mental arithmetic and the granting of occasional holidays for such reasons as the Presbyterian Tea Meeting. The roll was increasing steadily.

PATEA COUNTY FORMED

At this time the Provincial Governments were abolished. In their place New Zealand was to have no less than 64 COUNTY COUNCILS. Taranaki was divided into two counties and Hawera was then part of the enormous PATEA COUNTY which extended from the Tangatora River near Opunake to Waitotara in the south, and as far as Mount Egmont and out to Omoana east of Eltham. At this time, the Patea Education Board was merged with the WANGANUI EDUCATION BOARD. Under the terms of the Act, Mr Cowern said he should have been secretary of the new board, but this was ignored and Mr Brown of Wanganui became secretary to the Wanganui Board.

EDUCATION BECOMES FREE AND COMPULSORY

This was accomplished by the 1877 Education Act. Many big boys and big girls were shocked to discover that not only were they required to go to school, but also that they must stay there until they passed the fourth standard or until they turned 14 for a boy and 13 for a girl. This Act ushered in the "Age of Giants" in N.Z. primary schools, and gave rise to many legendary "Untamable-Big-Boy" stories. The provisions of this Bill were intended to deprive local Education Boards of much of their power and give it to the Government. However, politicians so altered the Act as it went through Parliament that the end result was found to be that central government would have to pay most of the cost, including that of £3.15 per head if attendance was satisfactory, while local boards got more control, including even that of the inspectors.

Shortly after these changes Mr Harre left Hawera towards the end of 1878.

ALEXANDER MAIR

Mr Alexander Mair began his very successful fourteen years at Hawera at the end of 1878. During this period Hawera School achieved a great reputation for sound scholarship, and the headmaster's own reputation as a wonderful teacher grew year by year. It is said that the Wanganui Board's Inspector Mr W. H. Vereker-Bindon never tired of singing the praises of Mr Mair and Hawera School wherever he went. Under him many scholarships were won, and many pupils went on to greater things. He has been described as "a young man of very sterling worth and a very capable quiet teacher." Mr Ritchings Grant who was an assistant teacher at Hawera once wrote:

"Mr Mair was the dearest friend I ever had, the kindest soul, one of nature's gentlemen. In my whole career I never met a man just like him. He was a born educationalist who imbued

those around him with a love of their work, and a desire to do their best under all circumstances. He ruled by love and not by fear and seldom, if ever, resorted to corporal punishment which was unusual in those days."

It is also remembered that Alexander Mair had no sense of humour, or so some people said. The boys once dared Jim Winks to go to school early while Mr Mair was taking his early morning class of scholarship pupils and pupil teachers, and try to make a fool of the head.

In fear and trembling Jim knocked at the door and when Mr Mair opened it he stammered, "Er . . . It's April Fool's Day Sir . . ." "Is it indeed?" said the head and Jim was invited to join the class for a time of silent meditation. On another occasion some boys caught in the act of smoking were marched down to Constable Paddy O'Carroll's Lock-up to see at first-hand where "Baddies" finished up.

THE EIGHTIES

From 1881 the Waimate Plains began to be opened up and Hawera had a steady stream of pupils stopping in Hawera while waiting for their families to provide housing on land in the Manaia area.

In 1882 Hawera became a Borough and the most urgent task facing the new council was seen to be the ploughing, levelling and gravelling of Victoria, Glover and Wilson Streets. A gorse hedge in the middle of one street was to be removed, and a stock watering hole in Glover Road to be fenced in. In short, they thought it was time Hawera lost its wild west look.

Mr Mair's logs are also lost, but the Star files record that they were very neat and beautifully kept. In 1881 Inspector Foulis wrote that the roll had reached 186 and that the committee would shortly need to consider additions to the building. Examination results were:—

1880 79 passed out of 83.
1881 99 passed out of 103.
1882 132 passed out of 140.
1883 137 passed out of 138.

SCHOLARSHIPS.—

1883 George Home (later Dr Home) top marks. £25
Class C.
James McFarland top marks Class D.
1884 George Home Second place. Class A. £30.
H. McLeod Second place. Class B. £20.

It is recorded that the truancy inspector, (aptly named Mr Wagstaff), paid his second visit in 1883. In the same year, Mr Foulis wrote in the log:

"The master continues to exercise over this school the profound moral influence which those acquainted

with him would expect. The whole tone and appearance of the school is highly creditable. With the additional school places provided, this school will be able to make more progress than it has ever yet exhibited, notwithstanding its former high character."

Mr Mair used to stand at the school door and vigorously ring a hand bell to call pupils in.

TEACHERS

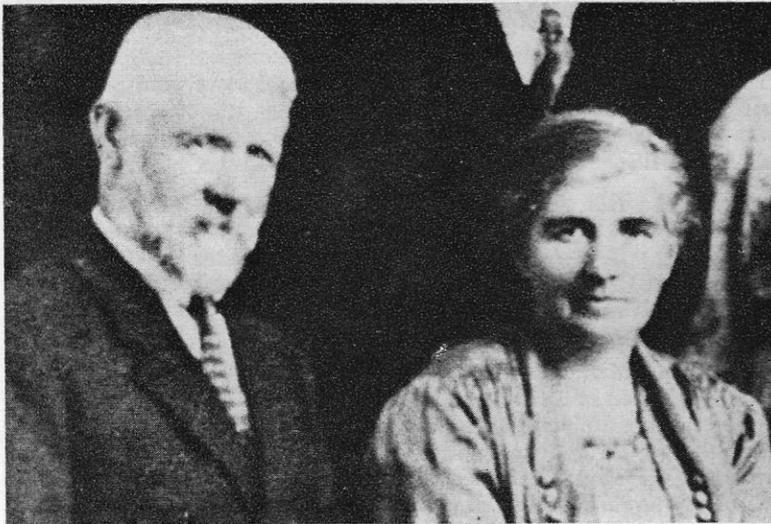
As the roll grew, many pupil teachers and assistants came to help. Apart from Mr W. Douglas, only women teachers assisted during the first decade.— Miss Alexander in 1877, Miss Phillips, 1878, Miss Becky Williams, 1879, Miss Cornfoot, Miss A. Woodhead and Miss Hills in 1880.

Miss Verdon and Miss A. Hobbs came in 1881 and Miss S. Evans and Mrs Horneman came in 1882. Miss Agnes MacLeod was appointed in 1883 and Miss Alice McKay in 1885. Mrs Horneman, the headmistress, stayed for twelve years and she, like Mr Mair, was a strict teacher and very energetic. Miss Cornfoot later married Mr Mair and the story has often been told of a lad, W. Noble, who achieved fame and immortality in the district by throwing an inkwell at the Headmaster's Bride-to-be.

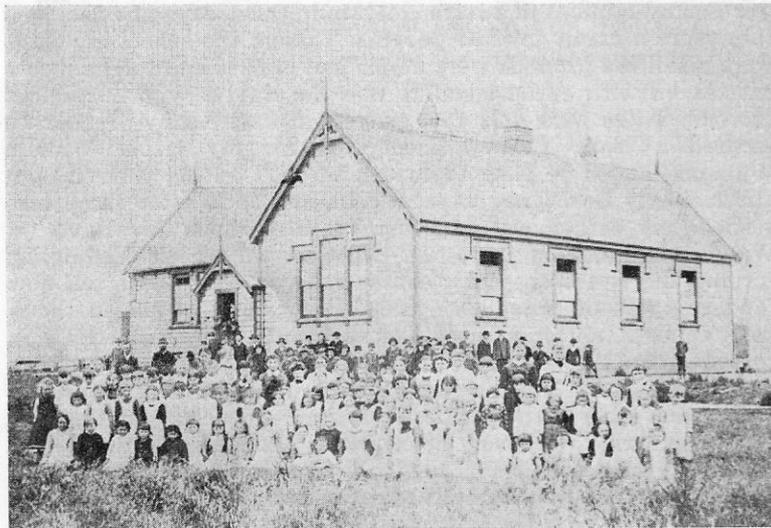
Miss Becky Williams writing many years later about her teaching days at Hawera wrote:

"When I first came to Hawera School, I boarded in Victoria Street and in the winter time that street was so bad that I had to go to school by Princes Street round by the Post Office. There were many families of twelve children in those days and as a rule they were a credit to their parents. Though the school buildings were small the grounds were ample and cricket and football were carried on with enthusiasm. It was the Baylys who introduced football. There were only four players at first but by degrees we secured a team. I knew them well for my father William Williams landed in New Plymouth in 1841 as did their father, Mr T. Bayly Snr. They were friends and soon after they were settled, my father walked from Patea to meet Mr Bayly at Wanganui and from there the two men walked to Wellington, fording the rivers en route." Miss Williams went on to tell how fond she was of horse riding and how young people in those days thought nothing of riding the twenty miles from Hawera to Patea. Parties would go and ride home by moonlight. Trips to New Plymouth via the coast took two days. Her greatest joy was to have her father come up for the weekend and together they would ride the lovely countryside, often visiting the Maori chiefs in their villages. They had ridden out to Livingston's farm at Tokaora the day before the famous raid when the natives began to plough up the lawn in protest at Pakeha land policies.

At the end of this decade, a prize was awarded for the youngest child who walked the greatest distance to school. It was won by Samuel Larcom and Maggie Taylor.



Mr and Mrs J. Harre (Headmaster 1876-1878)



A School Group 1882

A few weeks before the end of the decade the railway line was completed between Manutahi and Hawra, and we were linked by rail with the great outside world.

Though the first register has been lost the second register contains the names and admission numbers of many early pupils whose names were temporarily removed from the roll. This was done because of the strict nature of the truancy laws. If a child was ill or on holiday it was often easier to take him off the roll than cope with the red tape.

It was an easy matter to later readmit him and quote his old number. The following early names are readmissions. 7, John Smith; 27, Margaret Clemow; 30, Richard Smith; 40, Andrew Larcom; 41 Emily Hurley; 45 Esther Ecclesfield; 52, William Nicholas; 63, Bertha Hobbs; 76, James Petersen; 80, Mary Cowper; 81, Fanny McFarland; 83 William Douglas; 94, William McFarland; 96, Ethel George; 98, Florinda McGeoch; 101, Florence Tingey; 102, Ellen Douglas; 103, Bernice Ecclesfield; 106, Alfred Innes; 109, John Hobbs; 135, Millicent George; 133, Sophia Hurley; 138, Christina Cowper; 146, Margaret Boyd; 154, William Shearer; 158, Thomas Fitzsimmonds, also Theodore Fitzsimmonds; 155, Thomas Winks; 213, Mary Synnott; 241, James Way; 253, James Brown; 246, William Dunn; 249, Henry Hughes; 258, David Shearer; 262, Charles Innes; 276, Agnes Clarson; 303, Emily Smith; 304, Bessie Scott; 307, Ella Davis; 308, Etta Davis; 309, Cecilia Davis; 277, Upton Clarson; 312, Henry Fantham; 368, Arthur Beechey; 383, Alex; 384, Jane and 385, Elizabeth Leslie.

NOTES

1878 members of the first Wanganui Education Board were: Hon J. Bruce (the Parihaka hero and member of the House of Representatives), Hon W. Fox (later Sir William, M.R.R. and five times Premier), Mr W. H. Watt (a prominent Wanganui merchant), Mr J. Duthie (head of John Duthie and Co. and later M.H.R. for Wanganui), Rev. J. Ross, Mr W. Williams (father of Mr Dan Williams of Meremere), Mr H. I. Jones, Mr H. Sanson and Mr Dalrymple.

Mrs Oughton (nee Harkness) said that Willy Evans carried the clock on the move from the Blockhouse. Mr Chamberlain, she said, was unfairly dismissed when a girl pupil secreted a bottle of whiskey under the school, and he was blamed.

Second Decade 1885-1895

During this decade the school roll continued to reflect the astonishing growth of Hawera township. Mrs Horneman continued at the school for almost the whole decade. She was in effect the first assistant as no men teachers were appointed until Mr Ritchings-Grant came in 1887. Mr David Syme was appointed a pupil teacher shortly afterwards and in 1888 the staff was, the headmaster, two assistants and three pupil teachers.

SUCCESS

The astonishing scholastic success continued.

1885: The board of Education offered three scholarships. One was awarded to David Syme and Hector McLeod gained sufficient marks to qualify if the board had sufficient funds for a further award.

1886: There were 18 candidates for the Wanganui Scholarship Examination. Margaret MacFarland gained third place on the junior list and won one of the three scholarships. She was the only Hawera entry.

Another year, from 14 entries Hawera took the first three senior places. B. McCarthy, Ethel George and Percy Jackson. (The first two were worth £80, and the third one £40).

1890: Yet again, George McFarland took first place with 89%, Martha Carmichael second with 81.5% and John Ekdahl seventh.

1891: Alex Hunter, Finlay Martin and Charles Thompson qualified for scholarships.

In 1887 Mr Mair wrote in the log towards the end of the year, "I find teaching the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th standards and supervising the other classes too much for my strength," and later, "Headmaster absent for three days on account of illness."

The committee decided it was short of funds in 1888 and the teachers were authorised to collect 6d per quarter per head for pencils and stationery. This was to last for many years and be a sore point with teachers.

By March 1890 the committee apparently had a little money to spare for it started a school library with a nucleus of fifty books. The committee at this time was CHAIRMAN Mr Hutchison (a solicitor), Mr Parkinson (of "The Hawera Star"), Mr Dive (Father of Bradshaw Dive, later an M.P.), Mr Gore (probably of Tongahoe), Mr Jackson (father of Percy), and Mr Sutton and Mr Martin.

For 1890 the log is full of entries.

7 July. Pupil teachers have passed as follows: Esther Ecclesfield, 82.9% (I believe she was later to be Principal of the Girls' College, Wellington), Amy Brunette 66.4%, Isabel Hutchison 67.8%.

OCTOBER: Patrick O'Dea, pupil teacher from Stony Creek visited.

NOVEMBER: George McFarland and Bessie Ecclesfield each received a prize from Head Teacher for highest marks for October.

DECEMBER: Maud Clemoe, Horace Nowell and Alan Wallace obtained good attendance certificates of the first class, and Percy Jackson, Malcolm Brunette, Margaret Carmichael, Lizzie Carmichael and Victor Nowell second class certificates.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

12 December 1890. Visit of the Governor, The Earl of Onslow. The children marched to the Council Chambers and sang the National Anthem, being thanked by His Excellency.

16 January 1891. The Hon R. J. Seddon visited the school today in company with school committee chairman. He granted TWO WHOLE HOLIDAYS.

March. A holiday for the Normanby Horticultural Show. Prizes at the show, **Mapping**, G. McFarland 1st, F. Martin 2nd. **Writing**, Rhoda Syme 2nd.

"Mr Alec Mathison and Mrs Horneman away on account of illness."

"Pupil . . . expelled. Mr H. Caplen solicitor, has written saying that the proceedings of the committee which expelled the boy are irregular. (This is the usual legal device). Mr Caplen had to do something for his client. However as the boy is not attending, no further action is necessary."

SCHOOL COMMITTEE 1891: Messrs J. F. Martin, Sutton, M. Hunter, W. Jackson, Dive, Robbins and Rev Griffin.

8 MAY. Prizes won at the **Taranaki Jubilee Exhibition.**

MAPPING Standard 6. George McFarland H.C., Finlay Martin 1st.

WRITING Standard 6. A. Hunter and F. Martin 1st equal.

WRITING Standard 7. P. Jackson 1st, M. Carmichael 2nd, A. Adamson 3rd.

WRITING Standard 5. M. Burnette 1st.

WRITING Standard 3. E. Wallace 1st, M. Carmichael 3rd.

JUNE 1891 Staff: Mr Mair, Mrs Horneman, Mr Matheson, Miss Brunette, Miss Hutchison, and Miss Ecclesfield.

AUGUST. Senior scholarship won by A. Hunter.

SEPTEMBER: Prizes for highest marks in August go to Emily George and Fred Synnott in Standard 6, Julius Mendleson and Margaret Dive Standard 5.

Singing lessons: "The Old Black Cat" and 'A Happy Family We'".

1892. Punished A. Wallace, H. Hansen and Awatapu Teari. Four strokes each for fighting in the playground.

FEBRUARY. First Class Attendance Certificates: Julius Mendelsohn, Fred Jackson, Emily Whittington, Edith Whittington, Allan Wallace, William George, and Pearl Brown. SECOND CLASS: Ida Mendelsohn, Agnes Mair, David Wallace, Moses Bernard, Lizzie Carmichael, Alice Cole, Robert Carmichael.

1892 COMMITTEE

Messrs: Martin, Brunette, Fairs, Hutchison, Jackson, Parkinson, Sutton, Whittington and Veats.

27 MAY, 1892. Mr Mair wrote, "Forwarded my resignation to board and to committee."

30 JUNE: "Headmaster left school today."

Mr Matheson took charge of the school for three weeks until Mr E. C. M. Harrison arrived. He proved the same kind of man as Mair and followed on with the same thoroughness. His slogan was "MEN FIRST . . . SCHOLARS NEXT". His philosophy was to teach boys first of all to be manly and then to be scholars. He placed less emphasis on academic achievement than Mr Mair had done. Many years later, one of his staff at Hawera said, "Mr Harrison was a fine type of man . . . an old English gentleman, who had a great influence on the character of the boys and girls at the school. An old pupil once said to me, "He always reminded me of the great schoolmaster, Arnold. It was a great shame to tell Harrison a lie, for he always believed you." During 1892 a severe and protracted illness hit the school which remained closed for thirteen weeks. The roll was up to 363 by the start of 1893. August saw another epidemic, this time measles and 214 children were absent.

MR C. H. WARDEN

Mr C. H. Warden joined the staff in April, 1893, and stayed for five years. He was fresh from Otago University and Training College and after the stern Otago heads he found Mr Harrison a refreshing surprise. He immediately saw the teaching of children from a much more attractive viewpoint. Mr Parkinson who had become SC Chairman, extended a very kind welcome to him.

Mr Warden once said Mr Harrison must have been 50 years ahead of his time. A teacher out to cram facts into the large boys then compulsorily attending school was in for a hard time. A teacher who looked at them and saw developing and interesting boys and girls had a much happier philosophy.

Mr Harrison asked Mr Warden to organise playground attractions to give the older pupils more to interest them at school. Bigger pupils like Leo Espagne and George Hobbs came to his assistance and Jean Lambie emerged as a leader among the girls. Drill displays concerts and other activities were quickly organised and teacher-student relationships

were considerably improved. Before Mr Warden came the children had taken part in an exhibition in aid of the Hawera Hospital. They provided tableaux and decorated groups. Mr A. Tompkins was also on the staff at about this time. Mr Warden was keenly interested in cricket, football and music. He played for Star Cricket Club, was secretary of the T.R.U. and took part in the Hawera Operatic and Dramatic Society productions.

Miss E. Low was a teacher about 1887 and in the same year a report of the school concert especially mentions a young staff member Robert Law (later a Kaponga headmaster), who sang a solo, "The Bells". Miss Isobel Hutchison was appointed in 1888.

OLD PHOTO

A class photo of 1890 has the caption: Percy Jackson (teacher), Geo Hobbs, W. Ogle, Geo Larcom, Sam Larcom, Geo Ogle, Ted Fantham, A. Castle, Ashley Jackson, Wm Styles, James Cowper, R. Castle, Horace Nowell, J. Hunter, Dew Caplen, Ed Swinburn, V. Bashford, Hector Beamish, Chas Clements, Major Whiting, J. Mendelson, T. Coffey, G. Clout, A. Sutton, Alf Barley.

As this decade closed Mr Harrison was finding that others did not share his view of life and were making life rather uneasy for him.

Mr Harrison was preparing to offer his resignation.

NOTES

Mrs Watts (nee Ida Smith), is an ex-pupil who was born during the first decade and began school in the second. When we visited her in New Plymouth recently we found she still remembered her school days well. Classes were small in those days and she remembered Miss Brunette and Miss Hutchison best. Miss Brunette was there for many years and was much loved by the children, she recalled:

As we celebrated our centenary Mrs Watts is 93.

The syllabus at this time was pretty rigid and overloaded. Inspectors came to examine EVERY child in EVERY subject. Teachers were evaluated in "Percentage of Passes". In 1894 teachers were given the right to promote children up to Standard 1 and 2 without asking the inspectors. This right was extended to Standard 5 pupils four years later.

The boys and girls of Mr Mair's time looked forward each year to a remark of his which was a hardy annual. "Now boys and girls, it's ONLY SIX WEEKS to the exam."

It is said that a certain little girl of this decade hated history so much that she once swung on the swings all lunch hour until she was too sick to go indoors for history in the afternoon.

The school had no piano in Mr Mair's time. He taught singing by the Tonic sol-fa method getting his starting note from a tuning fork which he put between his teeth and hummed "Doh, me soh, doh."

The story is told of Guy Livingston (Uncle of the present Guy Livingston), who won the most popular boy award. Guy was bigger than most and was frequently called on for justice if the smaller fry were molested or bullied. He was a hero to the boys, especially when he head called him out and strapped him with no visible result. Finally the head remarked, "Go to your seat Livingston. I won't waste any more energy on you."

Henry Babbage and Bertha Dixon also won scholarships during this decade.

A writer, visiting Taranaki on a tour of the country writing his impressions for the Auckland Weekly News, about 1890 wrote:

"The stranger when he first beholds the mountain," will scarcely suspect that Egmont is a vast beehive, that this great stretch of apparently unbroken forest forming its base, is honeycombed with clearings, some of considerable extent. What he is apt to fancy a wilderness of solitude is alive with thousands of human beings and their flocks and herds, dozens of towns, scores of public houses and churches. Indeed there is said to be more open land inside the bush than on the plains outside it."

Third Decade 1895 - 1905

In October, 1895, headmaster Mr E. C. M. Harrison resigned. Everyone was sorry to lose him. He was such a gentleman with his quiet English ways. He seems always to have expected the best from everyone and quite naturally, he usually got it. Someone said, "It's a shame to tell him a lie, because he believed nothing but good in everyone." After he left, the first assistant, Mr C. H. Warden was in charge.

CONRAD STRACK

When the first quarter of 1896 began, Mr Conrad Strack was in the headmaster's office and a new era was upon the school. He was an Australian who had come from Pleasant Point and had a school age family. Taia was in Standard 5, Con was 8, in Standard 3, George was 6, in Standard 1 and Riti was almost 5. At home were sons Fritz, aged 4 and Karl, aged 2. Mr and Mrs Strack were Christian folk who stood firmly for their convictions. They linked up with the Wesleyan congregation and made many friends. He soon became known as a person not to be trifled with. Any child who stooped to "telling a falsehood" knew what to expect and those who played truant could expect to have big boys sent to bring them at bell times. Mrs Strack became almost the school matron and was always ready to render first aid in the school house.

Teachers and especially the young cadets and pupil teachers, found there was to be no slacking. Cadets were young teachers who had passed the exam for the sixth standard. A little further up the ladder they became pupil teachers, but they still were on the admission register as scholars. Mr. Strack took their higher education and their teacher training very seriously indeed. He devoted a lot of time to their classes and to giving special lessons for them to observe and having them give lessons for his comments.

When they failed to do their homework or disobeyed his instructions or in any way disappointed him, he wrote it down in the log book.

The period of almost thirty years under Mr Strack is the best documented period of the school's century. His log books give a fascinating insight into the life and trials and the joys of a conscientious headmaster, with the highest ideals, who gave of himself unstintingly, who expected others to be similarly motivated and who dedicated himself to turning out good citizens with a sound education.

When Mr Strack came, the school had five rooms. A new room for the infants was added during 1899. At the end of 1902 the new building was opened. It had a large central hall so

familiar to hundreds of us. A large fire place did its best to warm the place in winter. The school-house (the second), was new, the old one being shifted to the other end of the block.

Conrad Strack gave the school its motto, "Whaia te matau ranga", or "Aim for the highest".

Some parents and committee-men regarded Mr Strack as being all powerful. Others refused to allow themselves to feel intimidated and adopted a curt "Who-does-he-think-he-is?" attitude. Ill-mannered or high-handed requests were quite likely to be ignored while simple complaints resulted in the head spending many hours of painstaking investigation in order that justice might be done.

SYLLABUS

It had been said that the primary syllabus of 1900 contained double that of 1925. In fact, the huge amount required to be learnt and the requirements of the dreaded annual inspector's exam had a stranglehold on the whole school system. Teachers and schools were judged on their percentage of passes at these exams. The number of teachers allowed for a school depended on the average attendance. The result was a foregone conclusion. Teachers HAD to work towards exams and truancy HAD to be severely discouraged. The Wednesday half holiday caused problems here when seniors were kept home to mind the house while parents had a break.

OUTSIDE INTERESTS

In the late 90s the headmaster encouraged outside interests. A football club was formed and when a track was opened up to Dawson Falls, a Tourist Club was started with the aim of visiting Egmont. The day after the Easter holidays, Mr Strack was called to the inquest of Mr McGeoch and Mr Beaumont who lost their lives on Egmont. The Tourist Club boys attended the funeral and placed a mountain wreath on each grave.

A system of monthly competitions was started and Mr Strack bought the prizes. In April '98 it was kites and dolls. Another time it was pincushions and boats. School flower shows were held and as many as a hundred visitors would come. A sunflower competition drew 50 entries. Nina Dowling had the largest bloom, Karl Strack had the most blooms on a stalk, twenty. Charlie Ogle had the largest seed head at 19 inches across, closely followed by John Thompson with a 17 inch seed head.

SUNSTROKE

When the first quarter of each year began, there was concern lest the children got sunstroke, a sickness often reported in the colony and said to be fatal. Mr Strack decreed that girls MUST wear hats outdoors and had the big boys trim low branches off the trees so that the little ones could play under the trees in the shade. There seems to have been a lot of sickness

amongst the staff, both Mr Strack and a lady teacher going down with measles, one year.

WINTER

When winter came, Mr Finlay kindly cut firewood for the school and the big boys stacked it under the building. Teachers had instructions to make sure the fires were going well before 9.30 a.m. opening time, but to let them die out after 2 p.m. Four inches of snow fell one winter day, which was rare for the town, and one hail storm at 9.15 a.m. caught children on the way, so that they arrived in distress with the cold. However, Mrs Strack made a bucket of hot cocoa which saved the day. The rooms in winter were often hot and stuffy, and worse still, smokey. The log mentions people "slightly fainting" from the effects of the atmosphere at times. "One o'clock days" were observed if the weather was bad or the attendance under half.

INSPECTORS AND EXAMS

The high point of every year was the October visit of the examining inspectors. It mattered desperately. The committee granted a holiday after it was all over and the results were published in the papers. Great was Mr Strack's annoyance when the results were published, one year, TWO DAYS before he received them himself.

Following the joyful, or otherwise, news, there was a great day of moving desks, promoting the successful and calling on teachers to account for their low pass rates.

With this great move around, the whole school began on the new year's work. Yes! In October!

In the log is written, "The annual exam can be passed by fairly intelligent children only by regular attendance and conscientious work by teacher and taught. I note, that after the exam date has been published, some parents send back to school, children who have been absent a long time. They seem to think the exam is a kind of lottery in which each has an equal chance of winning."

When one of the Hawkins boys, who had been attending the convent for a year, turned up at school only a fortnight before the exams, Mr Strack sent him home to tell his father to come and see him. He confided to his log, "I consider it unfair to both schools for him to come here now. 'I have an idea that the boy was NOT sent here by his parents.)' However, Mr Hawkins saw the light and agreed to keep the boy from starting until after the exams. On the day before the exams.—"Desks were cleaned, grounds were cleared. Books, papers, etc.. were all arranged in order of schedules. Spoke to all scholars re the examination. Urged all to be honest."

HIGHLIGHTS

The highlights of the decade were.— The Boer War, the death of Queen Victoria, the Governor-General's visit, the arrival

of the flagpole and the school's becoming a district High School.

The great events of the war were suitably celebrated. When news arrived that Ladysmith had been relieved, the combined schools marched through the streets and sang "Soldiers of the Queen", then they all marched back to Whittaker's paddock opposite the school. Speeches were made by Mr Strack and the new committee chairman, Mr Sargent. The Reverend Father Power provided cake, fruit, nuts and sweets for the children. When our troops at Mafeking were relieved after a long siege the firebell announced the news. Cheers were given in each room and scholars were dismissed for half an hour "to enable them to give vent to the exuberance of their patriotic feeling." At 12.30, Hawera and Convent scholars joined for a march through town. Speeches this time were from the local Member of the House of Representatives, Mr Felix McGuire and the Mayor, Mr E. Major.

When the Governor, Lord Ranfurly and his lady visited the school it was a very proud occasion. The hall was beautifully decorated and a fine archway constructed. Special photographs were taken to be presented to the Governor. On the great day, the Governor, Lady Ranfurly and his suite arrived at 10.15 a.m. The senior boys formed a guard of honour from the gateway to the door. Harold Finlay still has a photo of himself, as a small boy, in a velvet suit, his hair in ringlets. He was chosen to be the one to present Lady Ranfurly with a bouquet.

THE FLAGPOLE

The school acquired its well known flag pole in 1902. It was made from the mast and spankerboom of the barque "Lizzie Bell" which was wrecked on Oeo Beach. (The Stevenson family care for the graves of the 12 seamen lost, 24 July, 1901, in a little cemetery off Puketapu Road, Pihama.) Mr Strack was responsible for collecting funds to have the mast and the ship's bell erected at the school. Harold Finlay recalls that it was brought in by bullock dray and Mr Grant, later of Ararata, trimmed and joined them. The base was enclosed in a galvanised iron cover and sunk about six feet. The stays were steel cables from the ship. Mr Strack recorded the height as being 73ft 2½ inches, the highest in the colony. (Some people thought it looked higher than that.) When the flag rope broke, a sailor climbed up and renewed the rope. The school had a good bugle band in those days and on special days the school gathered round the flagpole and saluted the flag, he said.

Horace White, now of Whangarei, remembers how the flagpole lay on the ground waiting to be erected. He put his books under it and joined the other boys in running along it. When he went to retrieve his books, they had gone. Some zealous child had taken them to his teacher and he got two of the best for carelessness.

Horace lived along the main South Road, near where the Waihi Stream crosses it. His parents had a milk run and he used

to help in the early morning. He remembers his first day at school. While his mother was talking to Mr Strack and enrolling him he wandered away and pulled the bell-pull, giving the children and unexpected early playtime.

THE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

When the school became a District High School in 1901, Mr Strack began to sign the log book "C.A.S. Rector".

The creation of the D.H.S. meant much extra work for the Rector. Twenty scholars enrolled for the secondary department straight away and the number steadily grew. He discussed the Class 7 syllabus with Inspector Vereker Bindon who said he would be satisfied with the following work.— All the algebra as per regulation, sixteen propositions of Euclid and half the Latin as per regulation. He found his time very full with them and in giving object lessons for the cadet teachers and observing their special lessons. Before the inspectors came in '01 he examined his 50 secondary scholars in Latin, French, algebra, Euclid, English, arithmetic and comprehension.

RUGBY

In the winter of 1900, football fever was about. When the great North v South match was coming up a system was devised to allow the senior boys to see the game without having to play truant. The classes were called in early and let out late and playtimes were dispensed with for several days before, to make up time. However, for the Wellington v Taranaki match the following month the school committee decided to be difficult and refused permission for scholars to be dismissed at 2.30 pm. Nevertheless the log records that the big boys got out at 3 pm and the rest at 3.20 pm.

THE CADET CORPS

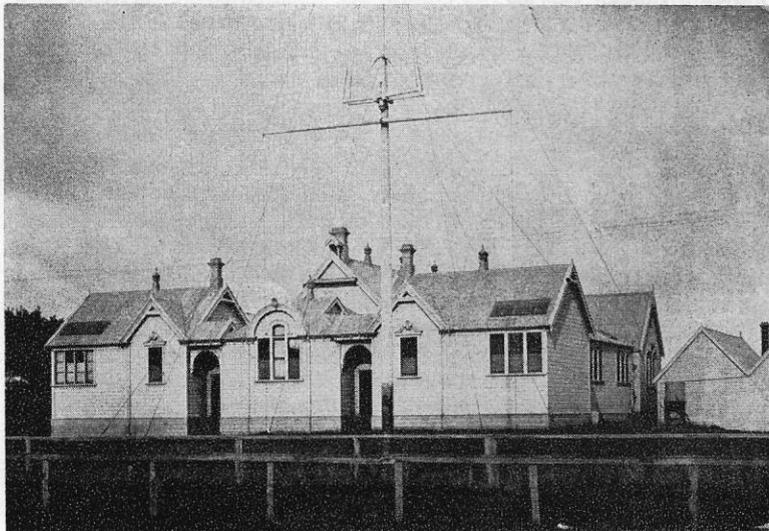
A very well remembered event of 1901 was the trip to Christchurch for the school cadets. Members of the cadet corps in secondary schools were invited to parade either at Auckland or Christchurch before HRH Duke of Cornwall and York, who later said how impressed he had been with the colony's splendid fighting material and the promise shown by the cadet corp. The Hawera group were certainly enthusiastic for 54 boys had been practising twice daily. The trip was regarded as an educational opportunity as well.

SEDDON'S INFLUENCE

In the years 1901-1904 the rigid school system began to undergo a change largely thanks to "King" Dick Seddon who became Prime Minister and Minister of Education. The Public School Teachers' Salaries Act established a colonial scale of staffing and salaries and provided for the Education Department to pay to each board the exact amount for salaries due. This left a much reduced capitation allowance for boards to spend and



An early school group about 1907.



School about 1905

Cyril Murch photo

strengthened the department. The system was still cramped by the proficiency exam but free post primary education was on the way. Richard Seddon visited Hawera for the 1904 Industrial Exhibition, the same year in which Hawera was lit for the first time by the Electric Light Company. (The seventh town in New Zealand to have the pleasure.)

Mr Strack frequently "Spoke to the teachers," as he put it. At these meetings he evidently laid down the law on almost every subject. "Re-keeping strictly to timetable"; "Re-leaving large fires in the afternoon"; Re-getting pens, nibs, ink, etc., ready BEFORE school"; "Re-taking sides in the quarrel which developed in front of a sewing class between Miss Brunette and the pupil teacher Miss McDonogh"; "Re-finding 25 scholars in room 5 with no slate rags and 10 with no rubbers."

A couple of the Wanganui Education Board's circulars have survived. One dated 1901 forbids the use of cane or stick in the schools under the board. Straps will be provided, it says, and they shall not be more than 25 inches long, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz in weight.

A memorandum of 1900 asks for sizes of classrooms and is filled in as follows.— Room 5 (infant room), 59 x 28; Room 1, 26 x 19; Room 2, 24 x 19; Room 3, 26 x 22; Room 4, 19 x 24; Room 6, 26 x 28; model school, 18 x 19. The model room was arranged to relieve overcrowding and to give the pupil teachers experience in managing country schools.

TRUANCY

The truancy regulations were so strict that children who took ill were often removed from the roll till they recovered. Weekly returns of absentees had to be sent and the chairman of the school committee had to be asked to grant an exemption for illness or other reasons. On the return for 9 February, 1900, Mr Strack had written, "Must I report cases where the cause of absence is satisfactorily explained? The general attendance has greatly improved since the last court cases."

Notes from irate parents were also in the log book. "Dear Mr Strack", says one, "I am sorry to have to write to you about the matter, but once and for all, I forbid the use of the stick or strap by you or your subordinates on my children. You are quite aware of my views in this matter and I trust I shall not have the necessity to make a committee matter of it and failing that, a board issue. I am etc. Thomas Dowling."

EXTRACTS FROM LOG BOOK

Staff, January, 1896. C. A. Strack, headmaster; Miss Brunette, mistress; C. H. Warden, 1st assistant; Miss Chapple, 2nd assistant; Miss McDonogh, junior assistant; Mr Lyall, senior pupil teacher; Miss Synott, pupil teacher; Mr Gabites, pupil teacher; Miss Spence, cadet; Miss Whittington, cadet.

"Gave a model lesson on subtraction (method of decomposition) for benefit of cadets."

"Took charge of infant room. Gave object lesson on a "Chair". Mr Gabites is proving himself an excellent student and a good teacher."

"Senior boys cleared wire from the girls' playground and mended a gate. Relieving teacher, Mr Bates left. Gave him instruction for half an hour on how to manage several classes at once. Showed Mr Lyall how to correct homework."

"The boy Dabinett in class 6 did a thoughtless and dangerous act today. He brought an old rolled up piece of lead bound with wire to serve the purpose of a cannon. He charged it with powder and shot and then fired it against a tree. The pellets struck the tree, the cannon burst, fortunately towards the ground. A score of little ones were standing near. I heard the report and rushed to the scene. I gave the boy ten strokes with the strap for his idiotic act and confiscated the cannon."

"Mr Kemp and Mrs Gomer complained about Mr Warden's punishment of their boys. I examined the boy Kemp's arm and it is badly discoloured."

"Warned juniors against playing with horses in the yard" and later "and re-interfering with lunch bags on saddles."

"After 3 p.m. a gentleman entertained with a phonograph-gramophone. Several of the scholars recited into the instrument and the record was produced very nicely."

"21.4.98. Mr Wright, a member of the Auckland Education Board visited. He mentioned that nearly all large schools in Auckland have an office for the headmaster."

"Mr Lyall reported a boy for writing bad language on his slate and passing it to another. I investigated. The boy admitted it. I gave him five strokes on each hand and two on the legs."

"Punished Lorf Barraclough (six strokes), for leaving school at 11 a.m. He is an old offender in this respect."

"Gave special lesson on subjunctive mood to 5 and 6. Douglas Day is making good progress in Euclid. He can manage three propositions in a week. Cadet Reuben Lightbourne joined staff."

"Cadet Herbert Gabites commenced duty. Cadets Fred Gabites and Emily Whittington passed their exams. Teachers presented Emily with a gold brooch as she is going to Te Roti."

"Senior boys prepared ground and on Arbour Day 1200 shrubs and cuttings were planted by scholars and staff."

"Took class for geography to show Miss Chapple how to arouse and endeavour to sustain the mental alertness of pupils. Bare repetition is drudgery for pupils and teachers."

"Spoke to boys re playing hockey. A dangerous game. Mr Hawkins brought his two boys to school and suggested they be watched for truancy."

"Punished three boys for fighting on the road home from school and six big boys for 'watching'."

"Three scholars sat for scholarships, Taia Strack, Daisy Barnard and Percy Bamford. Several cases of measles. Tied pump handle as water was not particularly good. Well needs cleaning. Reported it to chairman."

"Word received, Taia Strack took second place, Percy Bamford third place."

"1899. Mr Roger Maunder from Matapu joined staff. (A cadet aged nearly 15.) Scholarship pupil Percy Bamford left for Wanganui Boys' College. (Ka pai te tamati Bamford.) Taia Strack left for Wanganui Girls' School. (Ka nui taku aroha ke te Taia.)

"Gave an object lesson on the tomato. Cadet Maunder came again with unsatisfactory homework. His writing is shocking and he does not complete the work."

"The kindergarten equipment arrived and the small ones love to use it every day."

"Committee decided to make an 8ft path all round the school and asphalt it."

"Splendid end of year concert raised £27. Dux girl, Amy Beamish. Dux boy, Eddie Sargent. SCHOLARSHIP RESULTS. Roy Dive 72.6% topped boys' list, Amy Beamish 71%, G. Parkinson 69%, Eddie Sargent 68%, Elsie Barnard 65.1%."

"1900. Miss Cunningham, junior assistant, Miss Gordon junior assistant. New school committee is Mr Chas Sargent, Messrs Dive, Whittington, Barraclough, J. Hicks, E. Dixon, Fake, Sutton and Pacey. Mr B. C. Robbins retired after 5 years as chairman."

"July 11. 400 children present for the first time."

"Attended funerals of Mr Mills, Mrs Muir and Mr Grant, several of whose children come to this school."

"A man showed kinematograph pictures as an entertainment for school funds."

"Had 100 merit certificates printed. The dux of each class will have his framed. Gave final instructions to scholarship pupils before their exams. (Ivy Hudson should do well. Con Strack and Hilda Spence nearly qualify and Edith Caplen may gain 50%."

"Mended floor of Standard 1 and 2 rooms. Drew attention of committee to unworkable state of school pump. Gave them an estimate of £8 to lay water on to boys and girls toilets. Punished the boy McAnemy for truancy. The boy had run away to New Plymouth for four days because he could not stand school."

"Admission of Waldo Steven brings roll to 500. Parallel and horizontal bars bought."

"Drew Miss Gordon's attention to the fact that her punishment of six strokes amounts to insubordination."

"If Miss Whittington disobeys again, in the breach of school rules re lending of pens, I shall have no alternative but to report

her for insubordination. Spent hours inquiring into case of small girl who told her mother she had been "whacked" at school. It was a falsehood."

"The boy Joe Fake had a nasty accident . . . with iron hoops. Cut his leg to the bone. Mrs Strack bathed it with antiseptic. We then drew the wound together with sticking paster and bandaged the leg. (A few weeks after his return to school he had a similar accident to his other leg. This time the Strack's had some difficulty in drawing the wound together.)"

After the three weeks holiday in June, the school was re-organised in the light of the report of the inspector's surprise visit.

1901. Senior exams. Roy Dive top, 78%, Violet Wilson 76%; junior, Leo Spratt 62%, George Strack 60%.

1902. Classes still overcrowded. Board architect promises to hurry plans along.

July 1902. "Allowed school out early today in honour of the birth of my fifth son." (On Friday morning my little boy died. Teachers and scholars showed their sincere sympathy.)"

September. "Carpenters began on new rooms. Spoke to building supervisor re wooden floor in new central hall being very rowdy. Fifteen men working here. They complimented me on the behaviour of the children they had observed."

"I observed closely myself over several weeks and there is very little bad language. Had children measure new rooms and calculate paint required. I'm convinced we don't give enough attention to "everyday sums". We are planning an industrial exhibition instead of a concert."

New building open. I must help Miss Henn and Miss Synnott. (Pupil teachers.) They have sixty pupils each."

Dux boy, Arnold Thompson (later to become a lawyer), Con Strack 2. Dux girl, Gerty Glann, Verona Hunger 2.

Staff: C. A. Strack, Rector; Miss Brunette (until 1903); Mr Payne, first assistant; Miss Aris, second assistant; M. Niven, High Schol special assistant; Mr Blythe third assistant; Miss Ecclesfield fourth assistant. Pupil teachers.— Miss Gabites, Miss Whittington, Miss Henn and Miss Synott. During 1902 the following pupil teachers joined the staff, Violet Wilson, Amy Fake and Master Rupert Baker.

REMINISCENCES

Mr T. A. Blythe, third assistant 1902-3, wrote at the time of the 50th jubilee.— "The years spent on the staff were the most enjoyable of my life. Looking back the brightest scholar I taught was Frank Hutchens. The nicest girl, of a very nice lot, probably Alison Young. Queenie Glen was the fastest runner and the best hockey player. Eva Baird was good at games and became a Dominion tennis champion. Dick Roberts was a promising football player, (afterwards playing for New Zealand). Charles

A'Court, who later drowned, was also a promising footballer. The town baths opened in 1902 and we began swimming instruction there in 1903. I think the first boy I taught to swim was Jack Grant, a good swimmer and a good soldier. (Later to win the Victoria Cross in the 1914-18 war.)

FRANK and WILL HUTCHENS. Mr Hutchens senr. was the Methodist choir-master and taught his two sons music. Will became the conductor of the 3YA orchestra in Christchurch and was a well known violinist and singer. Frank was considered a child prodigy, for at the age of ten, he was the Methodist organist. Taking his courage in both hands, this ten-year-old travelled alone to Wellington and knocked on the door of Prime Minister Dick Seddon before breakfast. He talked with him and asked him to introduce him to the visiting Polish Prime Minister, the famous pianist, Paderewski. This "King" Dick was delighted to do. The great Paderewski agreed to audition the boy and on his advice, Frank went to England to study at the Royal Academy of Music, at eleven years of age. He was sub-professor at 16 years of age and won many awards. For fifty years he held the post of Professor of Music, in Australia, at the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music. He was awarded the OBE for services to music. In spite of all his success, Frank remained a very kindly warm-hearted man. He always felt very fond of Hawera, his home town. He composed a song especially for the borough jubilee celebrations. He died in a car accident in Sydney at the age of 73, in 1965. Mr Will Hutchens wrote in 1950.— "My mind goes back to the years when I received such good schooling from Mr Strack, Mr Warden, Mr Payne and others. I have met oldtimers in various parts of the world and one and all spoke in affectionate terms of their old school."

Cyril Burton, Wellington, writes: "Miss Janet McLeod was the sole secondary teacher for my first one or two years in that department. She lived with the Robertson family on South Road and was later on the staff of Dunedin Teachers' College. Eddie Sargent of the firm of Barrie & Sargent, Opticians, Wellington, is still my optician, although well into his eighties."

In 1904 Mr Strack organised continuation classes in shorthand and book-keeping. He received no payment and there was no loss to the Education Board. 20 to 25 pupils took advantage of these classes.

In 1905 he again organised, supervised and helped to conduct classes in woodwork, sewing, chemistry, English, commerce, arithmetic, book-keeping and Latin. 90 pupils attended. Mr Strack and others were paid £10. There was no loss to the board.

These classes were what was actually wanted by the young people and were of value to them. The teachers were poorly paid but the Education Board did not give any support.