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Edited under the authority of the Executive Council of the Institute.

EXAMINATIONS.

Examinations for the following are conducted by the Institute:—

1. Junior Certificate in Horticulture.
2. Intermediate Certificate in Horticulture.
3. Diploma in Horticulture.
4. Junior Certificate in Fruit-culture.
5. National Certificate in Fruit-culture.
6. Seedsman's Certificate.
7. Certificates in Florists' Art.

EXAMINATION PAPERS.

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VOL. 6.

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No. 1.

SCENIC RESERVES AND NATIONAL PARKS.

By E. PHILLIPS TURNER, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.

HISTORY.

The movement for the reservation and preservation of places of scenic, biologic, or historical interest originated in the Old World during the last 20 years of the 19th century, and, spreading to New Zealand, the idea was adopted by the Government of the day and provision for "Scenery preservation" was embodied in the "Land Act, 1892." Interest in the matter increased and in 1903 "The Scenery Preservation Act, 1903," with much wider provisions was passed. A Scenery Preservation Commission was set up in 1904 and from then until 1906, when it was abolished, the Commissioners inspected many places of historic or scenic interest and, on their recommendations, a great number of these places were permanently reserved. Since the abolition of the Commission several additional reserves have been made. The Public Works Act of 1905 also contained authority to take land for the purpose of Scenery preservation. The Scenery Preservation Act of 1906 provided that, in place of the Commission, a permanent Scenery Preservation Board, composed of several permanent officials, should be established. The duties of this Board are to make recommendations to the Government with respect to any matters that may be referred to it concerning scenery preservation. Since 1906 the Act has on several occasions been amended and its provisions extended.

NUMBER AND AREA OF RESERVES AND THEIR ADMINISTRATION.

At the 31st March, 1935, the total number of scenic reserves made was 965, comprising a total area of about 671,000 acres. These range in area from a fraction of an acre to 50,000 acres. The purposes of reservation have been mainly preservation of forest scenery, but other natural features of interest such as hot

springs, caves, rocks, etc., as well as places of historical interest such as Maori pas, redoubts, and blockhouses, have also been reserved. These are administered by the Department of Lands or in some cases by local Boards. National Parks number eight and at 31st March, 1935, were 2,845,630 acres in total area, viz., Tongariro, 149,470 acres; Egmont, 79,000; Hooker Glacier, 38,000; Tasman Park, 97,800; Arthur Pass, 120,000; National Park in Minchin, Bealey, Davie, and Hawdon Survey Districts, 94,060; Sounds, 2,266,000; and Mt. Peel, 1300. The largest is the Sounds National Park, 2,266,000 acres, in which are situated several beautiful lakes, waterfalls, mountains, and wonderful fiords. The Tongariro, the Mt. Peel and the Egmont, and Arthur Pass National Parks are administered by Boards appointed under the Special Acts under which these Parks are constituted. The Arthur Pass National Park is controlled by a Board appointed under Part III of the "Public Reserves, Domains, and National Parks Act, 1928"; whilst the other Parks are reserves subject to the provisions of Part I of the same Act. In addition to the foregoing there are 759 public domains with an aggregate area of 75,200 acres, but in only a few cases do these domains contain indigenous forest, and where they do the preservation of the forest in its natural condition has not been practised. For the size of the country New Zealand has certainly made a large number of scenic reserves and national parks and their aggregate area is very large. Though I have not at present the areas reserved in other countries I do not hesitate, from my general knowledge of the subject, to say that proportionately the reservations here exceed those of any other country.

THE CONCEPTION OF A NATIONAL PARK.

There are two conceptions of a National Park. In Germany, France, Italy and most other European countries, also in Japan, a national park is conceived as being a reserved area in which the scenery, flora, fauna and avifauna of that area are reserved most strictly in order that Nature may operate without any interference by man. The purpose of such parks is purely scientific; they are not open to the general public, only properly qualified persons being allowed to enter them. The other conception of a national park differs from the foregoing in that the general public are allowed and encouraged to visit the parks, and extensive works—e.g., roads, bridges, tracks, and accommodation houses—are carried out to entice people to visit the parks. In such reserves the recreation of the public is a main purpose, but at the same time the natural scenery, flora and fauna are interfered with as little as possible, partly because it is recognised that they are the main attractions which cause people to visit the parks. Most of the national parks of the United States and Canada are of this latter class; in some cases, however, areas within a national park in the United States are reserved solely for scientific observation and study, and the

general public are not admitted to them. Where the area is so specially reserved in forest it is considered that it will be of value as a check-area to demonstrate what results when nature is not interfered with. Such demonstrations will be useful guides in enabling silvicultural practice to be carried out with nature instead of against it.

In New Zealand the Acts under which the national parks are constituted do not define the PURPOSE of reservation, though sections of the Acts prohibit such actions as the cutting down of trees, the removal of plants, the killing of birds, the lighting of fires, etc. The Acts also authorise the making of By-laws and impose penalties for breaches of them. They do not prohibit the introduction of exotic plants and animals into the parks, and under the by-laws even this may be done, provided the Boards of Control first pass a resolution authorising such action. There is little difference between a scenic reserve and a national park, the chief being that the former are often of small size and not infrequently of only local interest.

MANAGEMENT OF SCENIC RESERVES AND NATIONAL PARKS.

Until 1907 the management of Scenic Reserves was a function of the various Commissioners of Crown Lands whose actions were dependent on reports they received from their Crown Lands Rangers. At that time, however, there were many prominent persons both in Parliament and outside, who considered that scenery preservation was of such great importance in New Zealand that it should be administered as a distinct branch of the Lands Department with an officer specially qualified in charge of it. This ideal, however, was not given effect to, but I was appointed Inspector of Scenic Reserves for the whole of New Zealand, reporting directly to the Under-Secretary of Lands. As a result of my inspection I found that in many cases the reserves were suffering serious damage through stock being allowed to graze in them, from theft of timber, from incendiarism, spread of noxious weeds, etc., etc.; and, as a result of my reports to the Head of the Department, specific instructions were issued for the rectification of the troubles. The deterioration of the reserves was only to be expected, seeing that the ordinary rangers had their time fully occupied in looking after Crown leases, and in some cases were not enough interested or qualified to advise on the measures required to keep forested areas from deterioration. I have heard it claimed that cattle were an advantage in reserves with forest as they cleared tracks for pedestrians! In addition to making inspections of reserves I also was responsible for making many additional ones, especially in connection with the Tongariro National Park, for inspection of the Parks also came within my activities. After the outbreak of the Great War there were no funds available for Scenery preservation, and my duties were diverted to other activities, mainly forestry.

Of late years, there has been no special officer to look after or give advice on the management of National Parks and Scenic Reserves. As stated, some of the parks are controlled by special boards; but in my opinion management by boards is not satisfactory. There is no consistent policy, several members are "ex officio," and members generally may have little interest in and no knowledge of the measures necessary to ensure the maintenance of the vegetation of the park in its strictly natural condition; indeed, there are some members who hold the opinion that the maintenance of natural conditions is not desirable, but that it is desirable to introduce foreign animals, birds, and plants into the parks; boards have only scanty or no funds, and even when the necessity of certain measures is realised they cannot, through lack of money, be carried out.

With regard to Scenic Reserves my objection to local boards is even stronger, for in small towns and country districts it would be most exceptional to find five persons who fully appreciate the true objects of Scenery Reserves and at the same time have the special knowledge requisite to manage them in such a way that there shall be no impairment of their condition and distinctive character. In this connection I may say that I know of one case in which a local board turned goats into a very valuable Scenic Reserve for the purpose of eating out the blackberry which had become established in it. It was thought the goats would be such asses as to eat blackberry when they could get the succulent indigenous shrubs of the bush growing in the Reserve! Another instance of mismanagement: owing to the exceptional beauty of the coastal scenery near a certain city, the local authority decided to construct a road to afford access to this beauty spot. The engineer in charge of the road construction, in order that he might get cheap road metal, blasted away several of the rocky pinnacles which were an important factor in giving the locality its particular beauty.

THE GREAT VALUE OF NATIONAL PARKS AND SCENIC RESERVES.

Our late Governor-General and several distinguished visitors have told us that New Zealand contains something of every type of scenery of other lands, that it is not anywhere surpassed in beauty and interest, and that in the future the tourist traffic here will bring us almost as much money as does any one of our Farming Activities. This should assure us of the great national importance of our Scenery, but it is not in this respect alone that it is important. The majority of people do not fully appreciate that which from youth upwards they have seen often and in great abundance, but our indigenous forests are fast diminishing, and in years to come our successors will have a higher appreciation of their beauty and their value. How important is it, therefore, that those areas which have been reserved should be competently managed so that the different

types of both scenery and vegetation shall be preserved in their truly natural condition as samples of primitive New Zealand. Visitors from America, Europe, and other parts of the world who come to this land come here to see something that is peculiar to this land. They do not come here to see those things or imitations of those things which they can see in their own or other countries nearer to them. But apart from this consideration our own true interest demands the strict conservation of those beauties of Nature which are characteristic of our land.

ADVICE FOR THE FUTURE.

In my opinion there should be a new Act passed defining the purpose of each class of reserve, so that no departure from that purpose can be effected by any regulations which may become law by the simple process of gazetting. The Act should provide for the establishment of a distinct branch—the Bureau of National Parks and Scenic Reserves—of the Lands Department, under the control of an officer who has the special qualifications for the efficient administration and management of the reserves. The present Board of permanent officials should be abolished as it would not be required. The importance of the subject warrants this, but if the present financial position will not allow this, then a start could be made by appointing for each island of the Dominion some person with the special qualifications necessary to secure the efficient management of these most valuable national treasures.

Writing on the subject of the scenery of England, when referring to National Parks, a distinguished scientific authority, Dr. Vaughan Cornish, has said they are places “where, in times of holiday, the urban population, the majority of our people, can recover that close touch with Nature which is needful for the spiritual welfare of a nation”; and a celebrated Englishman, John Ruskin, writing on the beauties of Nature and forests has said, “We have received these treasures as a trust from a beneficent Creator, and it is our duty to hand them on unimpaired to those who will succeed us.” These opinions, I believe, will be accepted by all and may I express the hope that each of my readers will do something to spread these ideas until a sense of the beautiful and a regard for it become general and not exceptional.

INEXPENSIVE MASSED DISPLAYS.

By J. A. McPHERSON, N.D.H. (N.Z.)

From a landscape point of view, it cannot be denied that springtime in the British Isles is one of the finest sights in the world. Miles of lanes with the hawthorn budding and the ground carpeted with violets, moist shady banks warmed by flowers of primroses while beechwoods in many places are carpeted with a sea of blue-bells just as as the giant beech trees are unfolding their delicate green leaves. And the public of those far off Islands thoroughly enjoy the springtime, from the tiny tots that gather posies from the hedgerow and fields to the grown-ups of London who have been known to troop down to Kew on "Blue-bell" Sunday in numbers reaching over 90,000 on that day. Such is the fascination of springtime when it unfolds its massed displays of living glory.

Here in New Zealand we have no wild primroses, violets, and blue-bells, nor are our native trees deciduous. If they had been, there would have evolved through the ages an entirely different type of flora to cover our forest floors.

Colour we all love and massed displays are a delight to the eye. True, there are some of our native plants which give this effect but they are not bulbous or herbaceous plants, among them being the Christmas Tree (*Pohutukawa*), the Kowhai, and the scarlet mistletoe, which in season are a sight not easily forgotten.

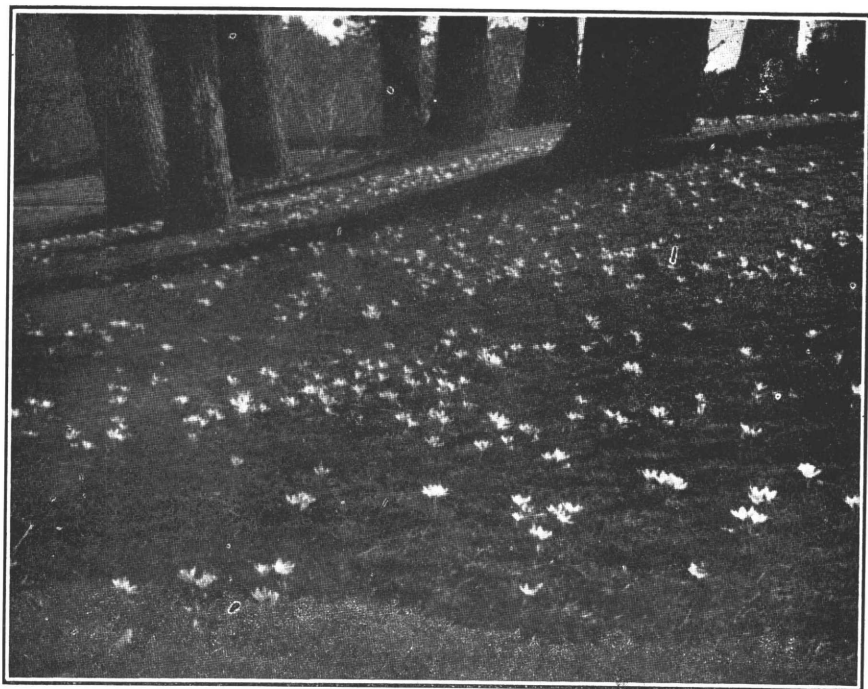
It cannot be denied, however, that we covet the massed displays of the wild flowers of the British Isles and from time to time make serious attempts to copy them. The following notes are written merely as a guide in order that we may in some measure secure in a small way the sights or even something similar to those recorded, and so catch for a moment the atmosphere of an English spring, and later go further and bring the "massed display" idea right into summer and autumn.

Unfortunately we cannot cultivate in masses the wild English violet mainly on account of excessive growth in the coarser grasses that grow luxuriantly in our waste spaces. The same can be said of primroses, unless of course we have a good shaded hillside planted with English Birch and by much patient labour continually remove all cocksfoot and other coarse grasses. Small shaded dells can also be planted, but here again it is a fight against coarse grasses.

When it comes to the English blue-bell or wood hyacinth our chances are very much better. These grow exceedingly well in exotic plantations composed mainly of beech, oak, birch, elm and ash, and where the ground is on the heavy and moist side. I have tried for a number of years to establish these under



Narcissi naturalized in the Woodland, Botanic Garlens,
Christchurch.



Part of Crocus mound, Botanic Gardens, Christchurch.

similar cover on dry gravelly soil but have met with little success, for only in the moist hollows will they give anything in the way of flowers. With blue-bells it is as well to bear in mind that sheep will eat the flowers, if allowed to graze in the plantation.

Perhaps the greatest success has been obtained with narcissii and outstanding examples can be seen on the hillsides about Lawrence, Otago, and in the estate of Sir R. Heaton Rhodes, Tai Tapu, Canterbury. There are many exotic plantations and open hillsides in public parks and gardens in New Zealand, where the planting of narcissii could be made a special feature and an attraction for visitors. What becomes of all the thousands of spare narcissii bulbs thrown out of private gardens? Surely these can be made use of. Why not have these sent to a central depot in your city or town for the purpose of planting on the hillside of some public park. Try, if possible, to keep the varieties separate so that those responsible for the planting can obtain the maximum effect by correct grouping. The illustration shows a corner of Hagley Park opposite the Botanic Gardens in Christchurch, where in three years the public, with their donations of spare bulbs, have assisted in the planting of 132,000 narcissii. These are set out in great drifts and wide grass pathways give easy access. Sheep are grazed on the area right up till the time when the foliage appears above ground. This display has required no finance, other than the wages for planting, and the work will go on until 250,000 bulbs have been planted! Very little time is taken with the planting, for all that is necessary is to lift squares of turf, plant five to eight bulbs in the soil underneath and replace the turf into its original position.

Crocuses, too, can be naturalised and another illustration shows a corner of the crocus mound in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Formally this mound, on which is situated some *Pinus pinaster* trees, was covered with coarse-leaved *Mesembryanthemum*. The *Mesembryanthemum* was removed, the soil dug over and 8,500 crocus (mainly giant yellow) planted in drifts and to a depth of four inches. Finally the surface was sown in a mixture of Chewings fescue and brown-top. This next season, just before the crocuses appear above ground, the outer scales of the bark on the pines will be scrubbed off with steel brushes to give without injury to the pines, a rich bronze effect. Trouble is sometimes experienced with sparrows tearing the early blooms about, but here again it is intended to scatter a little confetti over the mound. This latter idea is merely an experiment based on my reading somewhere and at some time—I do not know where and when—that confetti kept sparrows from destroying polyanthus blooms, if scattered near the plants.



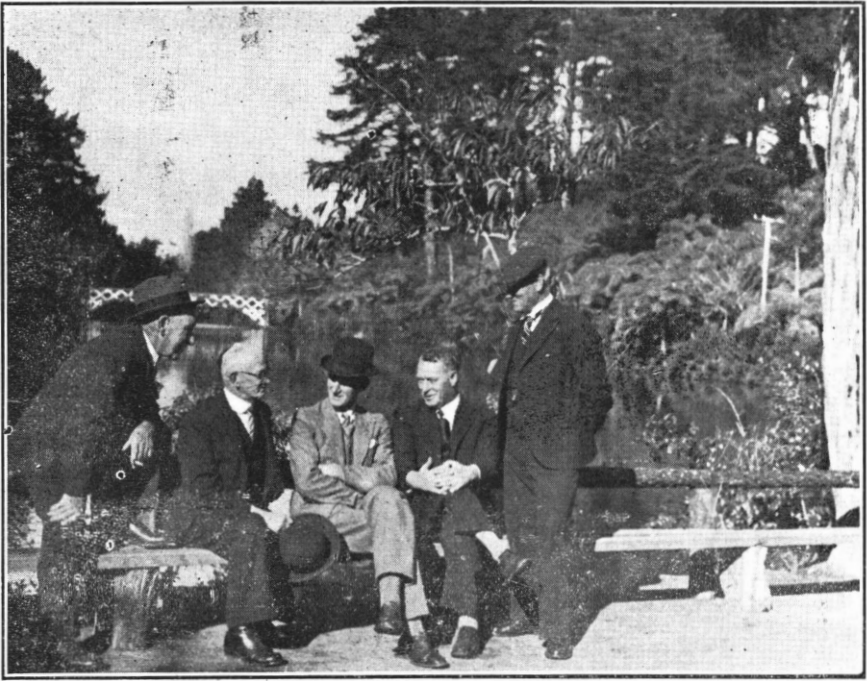
A thousand spikes of *Lilium regale* planted through Azalea beds, Botanic Gardens, Christchurch.

Now let us take the massed display idea into the summer. Bulbs of *Lilium regale* are cheap—they are easily raised from seed—so why leave the Azalea beds without colour at Christmas time? The illustration shows 1,000 bulbs in bloom in some Azalea beds in the same Gardens, while a further 1,000 have been planted in another four beds to increase the display this coming summer.

This brings us to the question of newly planted shrub borders. Why not mass colourful lupins in them for two seasons till the shrubs require the extra space? Or, if one does not like lupins, how about pink shades of Sweet William? A group of 2,000 Sweet William is a fine sight.

Then there comes the question of the dry bank under trees. Bring forward the much neglected Rose of Sharon, *Hypericum calycinum*. It only grows a foot in height, spreads by stolens, and the flowers are a delight right throughout summer and autumn. Very few weeds will attempt to grow through it.

Thus we can go on and on, providing ourselves with still further types of inexpensive massed displays.



PUKEKURA PARK, NEW PLYMOUTH.

From Left:—Messrs T. Horton, G. S. Nicoll, J. C. McDowall,
J. G. MacKenzie and F. S. Pope.

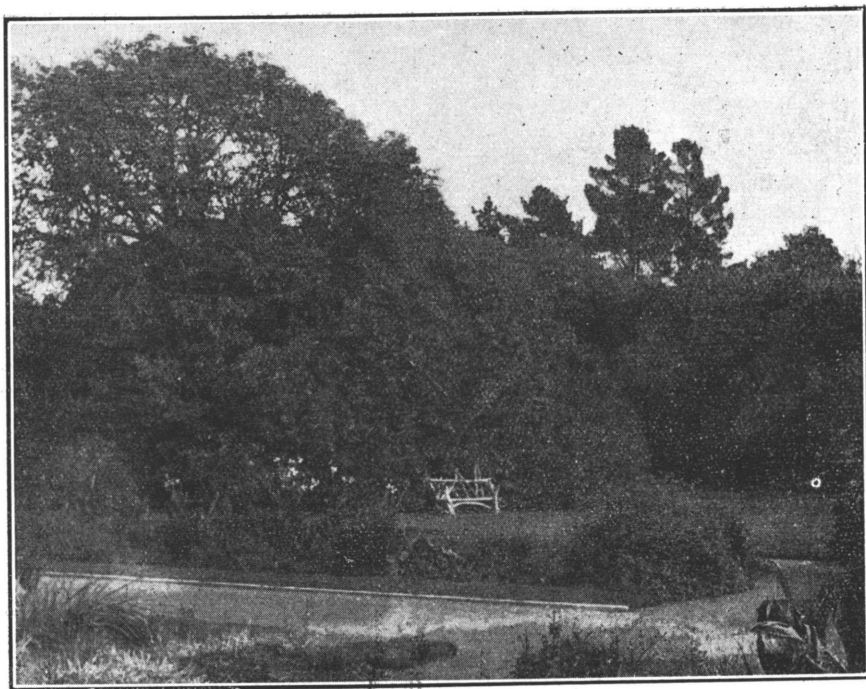
Photo by J. B. Gilmour.

TARANAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The idea of forming a Taranaki District Council was first discussed with Mr J. C. McDowall, B.Sc., of Oranoa Gardens, New Plymouth, at the recent Conference at Auckland, and he wrote to the Dominion Secretary on the 17th March to the following effect:—

“With regard to the Institute in New Plymouth I hope you will pay a visit here in the near future. A large number of people are interested in gardening, and I think some of them would become members. There is no Horticultural Society here yet. I have spoken to the Mayor, Mr E. R. C. Gilmour, and to Mr W. C. Weston, proprietor of the “Taranaki Herald,” and both are keen on having the next North Island meeting of the Institute in New Plymouth.” It was suggested, at the March meeting of the Executive Council, that the Mayor should be requested to call a meeting when as many members as possible would attend and endeavour to form a Council for Taranaki. At that time Mr F. J. Nathan (President) had decided to make the trip but unfortunately had to leave for Australia in April, so that fresh arrangements had to be made at the April meeting. It was then suggested that the meeting should be called for Thursday, 21st May, and the party, consisting of Mrs Knox Gilmer, Mr F. S. Pope (Vice-Chairman), Mr J. G. MacKenzie (Vice-President), Messrs W. S. Mason, J. B. Gilmour and G. S. Nicoll (Dominion Secretary), left Wellington on the Wednesday in Mrs Knox Gilmer’s and Mr MacKenzie’s cars. Mr J. A. Campbell (Chairman) was unfortunately unable to join the party on account of Departmental business. Arrangements had been made for the billeting of those members of the party who so desired and, in this connection, warmest appreciation is extended to Mr and Mrs H. M. Bacon, T. Horton and J. C. McDowall.

Thursday was fully taken up with flying visits to various reserves and gardens, and Messrs T. Horton, J. C. McDowall, R. Deare and F. J. Morsehead kindly placed their cars at the disposal of the visitors. Visits were made to the Hospital grounds, Western Park with its new Rugby fields, Mr and Mrs J. C. McDowall’s Oranoa Gardens and Conservatories, also ferns, begonias, etc., with a wonderful view, Mr E. J. Carr’s with wonderfully grown cacti and ferns, Mr W. C. Weston’s with fine native bush, Mr F. L. Parker’s glass-houses and fern and begonia dug-outs, Mr and Mrs D. Hull’s with fine collections of New Zealand and English ferns and begonias, Messrs Duncan and Davies’ well-kept nursery of forty acres of native and exotic plants, Mr Robert Deare’s, a tree-planting enthusiast, with a choice collection of exotic and native ferns and a tree rooster which presented him with a collection of stone eggs on the 1st April, Kawaroa Park with its fine playing grounds and sea setting, Brooklands, adjoining Pukekura Park and presented to the New Plymouth



Historic Spanish Chestnut at Brooklands, New Plymouth.
Photo by J. B. Gilmour.

Borough Council by the late Newtown King's estate, with its magnificent Spanish Chestnut and wonderful native trees including a giant Puriri against whose mighty trunk the ancient Maoris are said to have roasted their victims. The party was shown the original bread oven, all that is left of the old homestead and a cannon, said to have been saved from a wreck by a Maori who carried it in his teeth! Pukekura Park was then admired with its wonderful tree-ferns, rimus, lakes, water-lilies and its magnificent fernery. This is a sanctuary for New Zealand ferns and a successful endeavour has been made to make this as complete as possible with every fern named and the whole arrangement is most artistic.

The visitors were then entertained with afternoon tea at the Park Kiosk and Mr MacKenzie returned thanks on behalf of the visitors.

The meeting, convened by Messrs T. Horton and J. C. McDowall, was held on Thursday evening, 21st May, at the Borough Council Chambers, and was one of the most representative meetings ever held in New Plymouth for the formation of any organization and the accommodation of the Council Chamber was severely taxed. Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mr J. A. Campbell (Chairman of the Executive Council), Professor H. B. Kirk, Chairman of the Examining Board and a member of the Executive Council, Messrs W. H. Skinner, P. R. Kidd and J. B. Groom. A motion of condolence was passed on the death of Mr T. W. Kirk, brother of Professor Kirk, a former Director of the Horticulture Division and an Honorary Fellow of the Institute.

The meeting was presided over by the Mayor of New Plymouth (Mr E. R. C. Gilmour), who extended a welcome to the delegates, with a special welcome to Mrs Knox Gilmer, and he expressed the hope that, in the near future, he would have the privilege of opening a horticultural show, run under the auspices of a flourishing District Council of the Institute.

Mr F. S. Pope dealt with the activities of the Institute including domestic gardening, orcharding, citrus growing, vine-growing, market-gardening, forestry, the nursery industry, flower-farming, the florists' business, the horticultural side of the seed trade, preservation and protection of native flora, support to scientific research and practical instruction benefiting any branch of horticulture, plant registration, publication of quarterly journal, judging rules, National Horticultural Week and National Flower Show. Special reference was made to the examination schemes for horticulturists, orchardists, seedsmen and florists and to the constitution and working organization of the Institute.

Mr J. G. MacKenzie, N.D.H. (N.Z.) reviewed the work of the Institute since its inception, referring to the work of the

late Dr. L. Cockayne, who was its first President and Chairman of its Education Committee. He mentioned the recognition of the Government in the form of a small annual subsidy. The educational scheme enabled candidates to obtain their training in New Zealand, including a knowledge of its unique native flora. The system of horticultural training in approved gardens and of examinations had the approval of leading horticultural authorities overseas and was backed by the most prominent horticulturists and educationists in this country. He thought the aim should be to make New Plymouth, with its wonderful soil and climate, the garden city of New Zealand and that it should develop along the lines of making it attractive for retirement and as a tourist resort.

Mrs Knox Gilmer said it was through her connection with the Institute that she had taken up the cause of tree-planting and the love of trees throughout the Dominion. The province had a wonderful background for the formation of a District Council. A hope of the Institute was the foundation of a School of Horticulture in New Zealand, or perhaps one in each Island. Her particular interest was in Arbor Day and its restoration as a day properly observed throughout the Dominion. The world required a progressive policy of tree-planting. She saw work for the Institute and a District Council in keeping a watch on Mount Egmont and Taranaki's Scenic Reserves. Some forests had to go for agricultural development but the forest on the tops of hills and mountains should in no case be destroyed.

Mr W. S. Mason, N.D.H. (N.Z.) felt confident that there would be a strong District Council of the Institute as the result of such a large and enthusiastic gathering. He hoped the day was not far distant when citizens would be as proud of their digging forks as they are to-day of their cricket bats and tennis racquets.

Mr P. Thomson, Stratford, thought the formation of a branch of the Institute for Taranaki would result in co-ordination of what was being done at the present time, in addition to much other valuable assistance in the advancement of horticulture generally. He then moved, "That a District Council of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Incorporated) be formed for Taranaki."

Mr T. Horton, N.D.H. (N.Z.), New Plymouth, in seconding the motion, thought the time was long overdue for such a step. The formation of a Taranaki District Council would bring horticulturists together and would assist in the preservation of the bush on Mount Egmont and the restoration of what had been destroyed. He outlined some of the advantages of membership and the value of the Institute in the training of both girls and boys in horticulture.

The motion, on being put to the meeting by His Worship the Mayor, was carried unanimously.

Mr G. S. Nicoll, Dominion Secretary, thanked the meeting for carrying the resolution so enthusiastically. He hoped that all those present would become members and he was prepared to enrol them forthwith. In answer to a question relative to the scope of the new District Council, the Dominion Secretary stated that the new District Council would be for the whole of Taranaki. The Institute did not have District Councils for separate towns but each province had its District Council, with headquarters usually in the capital town of the province.

About twenty new members were enrolled at the meeting.

Mr J. C. McDowall explained that every member of the Institute in the district became a member of the District Council. They would have to call meetings of existing members and of those who became members to appoint officers and see that what was done was done in order.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Chair, to the Press, to the Convenors, and to Mr V. C. Davies, N.D.H. (N.Z.) for the gift of flowers, etc., for the decoration of the Council Chamber.

After the meeting the visitors were the guests of Mr and Mrs J. C. McDowall at supper at their home.

The delegates left for Wellington on the Friday morning after the meeting. Mr MacKenzie's party, on the invitation of Dr. Doris Gordon, paid a visit to Windsor Park, Stratford. The Committee of the Windsor Park Society (Inc.) is a small group of private persons who have taken eight or ten acres of river land to beautify for the public. Although the lease of this land only dates back two years, good progress has been made. A one-time rubbish dump has been converted into a reserve of great attractiveness and the natural advantage of the Patea river has been made the most of with the addition of a fine suspension bridge. Rocks have been used most effectively in building up banks on which lawns have been laid and shelter belts have been introduced. Altogether this well laid out park is a credit to its authors and their voluntary work and a distinct asset to the town. The visitors were entertained at morning tea at Dr. Doris Gordon's home, the hostesses being, Dr. Doris Gordon, Mesdames O. M. Curtis, B. C. Black, S. Pitt and A. O. Hugo..

The party arrived at Wellington in due course tired but happy with the success of their mission, and with pleasant memories of hospitality and kindness in every direction and grateful thanks were extended for the use of the motor-cars on the trip.

COCKAYNE GOLD MEDAL.

The following remit from the Canterbury District Council was passed at the 1935 Conference:—

“That favourable consideration be given to the advisability of establishing a Prize or Scholarship, to be known as the Dr. Leonard Cockayne Memorial Prize, to be competed for annually amongst candidates for the N.D.H. (N.Z.), or amongst trainees in horticulture.”

The remit was referred by the Executive Council to the Examining Board, which recommended that a gold medal should be presented annually to the best student, in the opinion of the Examining Board, in the Diploma Examinations, but that no award should be made if it was considered that there was no candidate of sufficient merit. This recommendation was adopted by the Executive Council.

Two candidates were considered in respect of the Diploma Examination, 1935, viz., J. G. MacKenzie, Superintendent of Parks and Reserves, Hastings, and M. J. O'Sullivan, B.Sc., Agricultural and Botany instructor at the Mount Albert Grammar School, Auckland. As the merit of these two candidates, in the opinion of the Examining Board, appeared to be equal, the award of a gold medal was recommended for each, and this has been approved by the Executive Council.

Functions are being arranged at which the medals will be presented, and congratulations to both winners are hereby recorded.

INFORMATION SERVICE.

The following circular was issued to District Councils and Affiliated Bodies on the 11th May, 1936, and is now published for noting by members to whom the service is also available:—

“I have to advise you that the following remits were adopted at the recent Annual Conference of the Institute:—

12. “That the Institute is prepared to take steps to represent to the Government’s scientific service, the urgent need for scientific research into horticultural problems. If this is agreed to, reports on same will be distributed to all affiliated societies.”

14. “That consideration be given to the provision, to affiliated bodies and members, of information service regarding plant identification, plant protection and horticultural matters generally.”

It was considered by the delegates present that such service would prove most valuable to members.

In connection with the above, I shall be pleased to receive full particulars of any matters coming within the above categories which, it is considered, should be investigated scientifically or otherwise.

All queries forwarded from time to time will be submitted to the Research Bureau for investigation and report, and you will be advised, in due course, of the results.”

INSTITUTE NOTES.

EDUCATIONAL: The Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, recently advised that gardens, nurseries, etc., approved by the Examining Board, would be regarded as satisfactory training institutions for applicants for admission to Kew as student gardeners, but that there is a long waiting list.

A further deputation from the Executive Council waited upon the Wellington City Council Estimates Committee on the 4th May regarding increased facilities for the training of students.

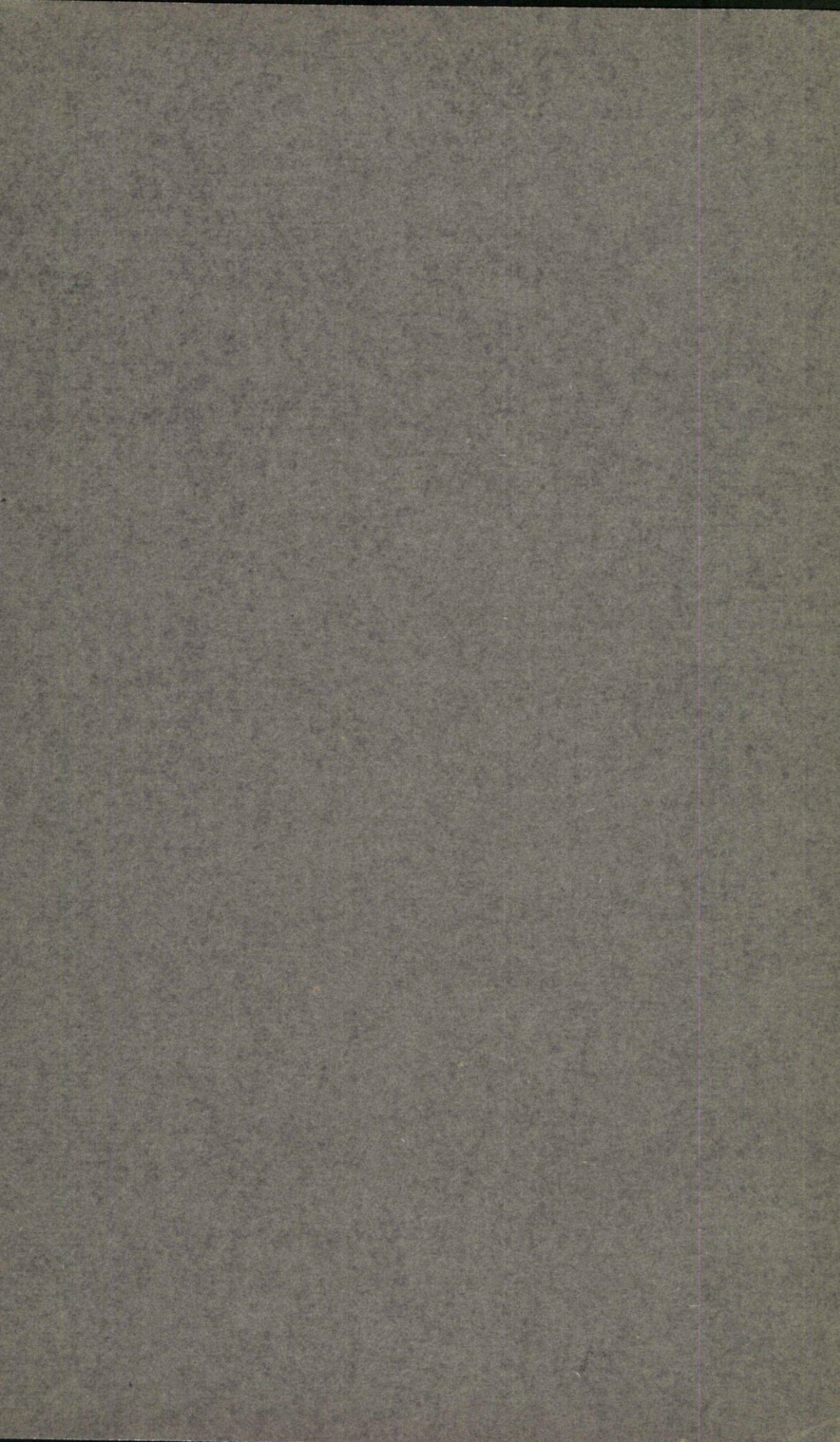
Appreciation has been conveyed to the Canterbury District Council in respect of the syllabus prepared for the Technical College, and classes for students have been established at the Wellington Technical College.

SEEDSMEN'S CERTIFICATES have been granted to:—Messrs F. W. Oliver (Palmerston North), H. E. T. Sutton (Invercargill), and F. H. Down and C. G. Hopkins (Auckland).

SENIOR CERTIFICATES IN FLORISTS ART have been granted to: Miss Alice A. Gray (Wellington), Mrs E. Fraser (Taumarunui), Miss N. A. C. Norris (Tauranga), Mrs E. M. Ellison (Wai-pukurau), Miss Minnie Chapman (Dunedin), Messrs V. Sandford (Auckland) and K. R. Macdonald (Whangarei).

CONGRATULATIONS have been extended to Mr A. H. Cockayne by the Executive Council and Examining Board on his promotion to the position of Director-General of Agriculture.

CONDOLENCE: The Institute has extended its sympathy to the relatives of the late Lord Wakehurst (Gerald Loder), donor of the Loder Cup, and an Honorary (Overseas) member and of the late T. W. Kirk, a former Director of the Horticulture Division and an Honorary Fellow.



NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF
HORTICULTURE
(INCORPORATED.)

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