

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND.

EXAMINATION FOR M. A. IN HISTORY.

NOVEMBER, 1921.

THESIS by : *Annals.*

SUBJECT:

THE HISTORY OF LAWRENCE, OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND,
From EARLIEST TIMES to 1921, including
A REVIEW OF ITS FUTURE PROSPECTS.

M.A. Jennings.

: : : : :

2243 JENNINGS, Margaret Aileen. 29th March, 1919.

Born Invercargill—ed. various private schools, Waitaki G.H.S., and Wanganui Girls' College; 1905-6, Dunedin Training Coll. and Otago Univ.; 1907, B.A.; Asst., 1908-12 Naseby D.H.S., 1912-18 Lawrence D.H.S., and 1918-22 Christchurch Technical College; 1919, trans. to Cant. Coll.; 1922, M.A., in History; 1923, appointed to take up educational work in China for the C.M.S. Research: "The History of Lawrence from Earliest Times to 1921."

THE LIBRARY
CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

"They led the van for the modern man
To Otago's central plains.
Through foaming creeks o'er snow clad peaks
To the land of the golden grains.
With hunger and cold and trials untold
They struggled bravely then;
Brave pioneers of the early years
The hardy goldfield's men!

: : : : :

"They paved the way to a better day
In our wild, unbroken land;
They sowed good seed in each noble deed
And left us a history grand.
In these bright new days we could never raise
Any tribute of verse or pen
To a nobler past than the first and last
Of the early goldfield's men!"

(Extracted from "The Early Pioneers", composed by J.J.Ramsay,
a Goldfield resident, on the occasion of the Jubilee of the
discovery of gold in Otago.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I. THE SETTLEMENT OF OTAGO.

1. Early European Exploration.
2. The New Edinburgh Settlement.
3. The Otago Block.
4. Land Regulations in Otago.
5. Tuapeka.

CHAPTER II. THE GOLD DISCOVERIES OF 1861 and LIFE ON THE DIGGINGS.

1. Early indications of Gold.
2. The discovery of Gabriel's Gully.
3. The "Rush" to Tuapeka.
4. Typical Experiences on the Way to the Diggings.
5. Other discoveries of Gold in the Tuapeka District.
6. Gabriel Read's Reward.

CHAPTER III. THE RISE OF INSTITUTIONS AT GABRIEL'S and WEATHERSTON.

1. "Bogus Rushes".
2. Miners and Business Rights.
3. The Claim.
4. Religion.
5. The bushrangers or highwaymen.
6. Coaching Days.
7. The Store.
8. Growth, prosperity and decline of Weatherston.
9. The Hospital.
10. Town Lands.
11. Education in Tuapeka.
12. The Camp.

CHAPTER IV. LAWRENCE in the MIDDLE and LATER SIXTIES.

1. Water races for Mining Purposes.
2. Quartz Mining.
3. The Tuapeka Brewery.
4. Other forms of Progress.
5. The Tuapeka Athenaeum and Mining Institute.
6. Lawrence proclaimed a Municipality.
7. The s. s. "Tuapeka".
8. The Press.
9. History of Ecclesiastical Organisations on Tuapeka Goldfield.

CHAPTER V. THE COMING OF THE RAILWAY.

1. A Retrospect and a Prospect.
2. Progress Leagues.
3. The Water System.
4. Land Settlement.
5. The Railway.
6. The Tuapeka County Council.
7. The School of Mines.
8. Municipal Buildings and Public Institutions.
9. Sport.

CHAPTER VI. LATER DEVELOPMENTS IN TUAPEKA. 1880 - 1920.

1. Blue Spur.
2. Hydraulic Sluicing and Elevating.
3. The Chinese Camp.
4. The District High School.
5. Gold Dredging.
6. Contributions from Tuapeka to the New Zealand
and South Seas Exhibition, 1890.
7. Street Lighting.
8. Naturalisation of the Daffodil.
9. The Jubilee of the Discovery of Gold in Tuapeka,
1861 - 1911.
10. Peace Day in Lawrence.
11. The Diamond Jubilee, 1861 - 1921.

CHAPTER VII. FUTURE PROSPECTS.

1. The Problem stated.
2. Pastoral and Agricultural Industries.
3. Factories.
4. Gold Mining.
5. Minerals other than Gold.
6. Afforestation.
7. A Tourist Resort.
8. Conclusion.

:::::oOo:::::

LIST OF MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

MAPS.

To face Page

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Map showing Tuapeka County and Riding. | 1 |
|----|--|---|

ILLUSTRATIONS.

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 1. | St. Clair, Dunedin, 1907. | 2 |
| 2. | " " " 1921. | 2 |
| 3. | George Munro in front of his old home. | 11 |
| 4. | Where Black Peter first found Gold. | 11 |
| 5. | Pioneers of Tuapeka, 1861. | 12 |
| 6. | Major Richardson. | 12 |
| 7. | Site of Gabriel Read's claim. | 15 |
| 8. | Gabriel's Gully, 1862. | 16 |
| 9. | " " " 1921. | 16 |
| 10. | Where gold was first discovered at Waitahuna. | 21 |
| 11. | A typical miner's typical residence. | 28 |
| 12. | Cradling. | 29 |
| 13. | Weatherston, 1862. | 36 |
| 14. | " 1911. | 36 |
| 15. | " 1918. | 36 |
| 16. | The site of the first township. | 40 |
| 17. | The site of the old Junction. | 40 |
| 18. | View of Early Lawrence, 1870. | 40 |
| 19. | Stripping with horses and drays. | 46 |
| 20. | The Borough Councillors, 1866. | 56 |
| 21. | " " Seal. | 56 |
| 22. | " " Councillors, 1916. | 56 |
| 23. | The Roman Catholic Church. | 62 |
| 24. | The Anglican Church. | 63 |
| 25. | County Buildings. | 77 |
| 26. | The Volunteer Hall. | 82 |
| 27. | Blue Spur, 1868. | 85 |
| 28. | Ground Sluicing in the Seventies. | 88 |
| 29. | A Sluicing Claim, 1916. | 88 |
| 30. | The Golden Crescent Sluicing Claim. | 89 |
| 31. | The Chinese Camp. | 90 |
| 32. | The District High School, 1911. | 92 |
| 33. | Whitehaven Street in Summer. | 99 |
| 34. | " " " Winter. | 99 |
| 35. | School children gathering daffodils. | 100 |
| 36. | Daffodils in Mr. Darton's Garden. | 100 |
| 37. | Lawrence, 1911. | 101 |
| 38. | The Jubilee Committee. | 101 |
| 39. | One of the earliest houses built in the district. | 102 |
| 40. | Mr. James Robertson - Mayor, 1911. | 102 |
| 41. | Mr. J. C. Browne. | 102 |
| 42. | The Cairn, 1916. | 102 |
| 43. | " " 1921. | 102 |
| 44. | Pioneers of Tuapeka. | 103 |

ILLUSTRATIONS (Contd.)

To face Page

45.	War-work.	103
46.	Site of Gabriel Read's Claim, 1921.	104
47.	Celebrities of Tuapeka.	104
48.	Pioneers of '61 and '62.	104
49.	Visitors and Members of the Diamond Jubilee Committee.	104
50.	Lawrence, 1911.	112

: : : : : :

THE HISTORY OF LAWRENCE, OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND
 from EARLIEST TIMES to 1921, including a
 REVIEW OF ITS FUTURE PROSPECTS.

::::::::::oOo::::::::::

P R E F A C E.

Although in choosing the subject of this thesis I have been largely influenced by very pleasant memories of a six years' residence in the town of Lawrence among some of the kindest and most hospitable people it is possible to find, yet in tracing the history of this town, so interwoven with that of the ancestors of these citizens, I have made every effort to present a perfectly impartial view of the various incidents and events gathered from the sources stated in the bibliography.

My aim in the following pages is first, taking the town of Lawrence as a concrete illustration, to point out the sudden rise, the succeeding periods of prosperity and depression and the slow decline of a gold mining town. I have chosen Lawrence because it is a typical gold mining town, is situated on one of the oldest goldfields of Otago - the first that was declared a payable goldfield - and, moreover, it is the oldest town on these goldfields.

Secondly, I am eager to reveal through the pages of this history and to record for the instruction of the future citizens of New Zealand, the tremendous debt of gratitude and the honour due to the pioneers whose determination, dauntless courage and endurance won for them their home and their privileges in a land separated by the whole width of the globe from the islands which had

nurtured the long line of their ancestors.

I owe thanks to present and past citizens of Lawrence for the willing help they have given me in collecting the material for this history. It is impossible to mention them by name, for they are legion; but I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to them for the interest they have taken and the valuable assistance they have rendered in this undertaking.

: : : : : :

BIBLIOGRAPHY.
 ::::::::::::::

1862. "Memories of New Zealand Life". - Edwin Hodder.
1863. Almanac with The N. Z. Gold Finder & Gold Buyers' Ready Reckoner attached. - By Joseph Mackay.
1863. "A Vacation Tour at the Antipodes". (1861 - 2).
 B.A. Heywood, M. A.
1868. "The Province of Otago in New Zealand; The Progress, Present Conditions, Resources and Prospects."
 Vincent Pyke.
1873. "Australia and New Zealand". Anthony Trollope.
1878. "Original Exploration in the Scottish Settlement of Otago and Recent Travel in Other Parts of New Zealand."
 James Turnbull Thomson.
1879. "Up and Down; or, Fifty Years' Colonial Experiences."
 Captain Wm. J. Barry.
1883. "An Illustrated Guide to N. Z. and Its Industries".
 John Bathgate.
1887. History of the Early Gold Discoveries in Otago.
 Vincent Pyke.
1887. The Handbook of New Zealand Mines.
1897. "Past and Present and Men of the Times".
 Captain W. J. Barry.
1898. "Fifty Years' Syne". Rev. Jas. Chisholm.
1898. "Contributions to the Early History of N. Z."
 (Settlement of Otago.) T. M. Hocken.
1899. "Gold Dredging in Otago".
 Published in "The Otago Daily Times", June, July, August. Pamphlet.
1903. Blue Spur, Otago. Essay by A. W. Tyndale, a N. Z. Schoolmaster.
1905. "Memorials of the Past - Being the Ministerial Reminiscences of the Late Rev. Alex. B. Todd, Oamaru, N. Z."
1905. Encyclopaedia of New Zealand, Volume IV, Otago.

1906. "The New Zealand Mining Handbook."
1907. "Early Otago and Some of Its Notable Men."
C. S. Ross.
1909. "A Bibliography of Some of the Literature Relating
to New Zealand." T. M. Hocken.
1910. "Early Otago Pioneering Experiences."
Watson Shennan.
1910. "Maori Nomenclature: Early History of Otago."
W. H. S. Roberts.
1911. "The English as a Colonising Nation."
Dr. Hight.
1911. "Gabriel's Gully Jubilee"- Reminiscences of the
Early Gold Mining Days - Contributed by a
large number of Pioneers.
1912. "Reminiscences of the Early Settlement of Dunedin
and South Otago." Wilson.
1914. "Lawrence Presbyterian Church Jubilee Celebrations".
(1864 - 1914). John Stenhouse.
1915. "The Church Envoy". March Number.
1916. Borough of Lawrence, Otago. N. Z. Jubilee of the
Civic Government. (1866 - 1916).
1918. Otago Seventieth Anniversary. (1848 - 1918).
1918. "The Geology of the Tuapeka District".
Dr. Marshall.
- New Zealand Census Returns and Statistics,
1860 - 1920.

: : : : :

N E W S P A P E R S:

"The Otago Colonist" from 1857.

"The Otago Witness" from 1860 to 1920.

"The Otago Daily Times" from 1861 to 1921.

"The Tuapeka Times" from 1868 to 1921.

"The Otago Witness" - Jubilee of Otago, 1898.

"The Otago Witness" - Jubilee and Chronological Number.

"The Otago Witness" - Gabriel's Gully Jubilee Number.

{The two earliest papers in Tuapeka were "The Tuapeka Recorder" and "The Tuapeka Press". Search in Lawrence revealed that copies once preserved had been burnt "as very dusty rubbish of no value to anyone". Not a single copy of either paper could be traced from elsewhere; but there was abundant proof of their previous existence."

: : : : : :

I N T R O D U C T I O N .

- - - - -

In order to enable the reader to see in his mind's eye the history of Lawrence unfolding itself before him, he must first become acquainted with the history of the district in which the future town is to arise. As the history of the district is an organic part of that of the province in which it is situated, it will be necessary to sketch in outline the history of the province and to describe the various conditions that prevailed as well as the events that took place in so far as they influenced and affected the development of the interior.

Otago is now the southernmost province of the South Island of New Zealand. The Otago land district lies between the forty-fourth and the forty-seventh parallels of South latitude, and extends from one hundred and sixty seven degrees twenty one minutes to one hundred and seventy one degrees ten minutes of East longitude. Its capital, Dunedin, has been built at the head of Otago Harbour, and is only ^{seven and a half} ~~twelve~~ miles distant ^{by rail} from Port Chalmers, which is accessible to large sea-going vessels.

For the purposes of local government the province is divided into counties and the counties into ridings. ~~and road boards.~~ Lawrence is in Tuapeka County, which occupies a south easterly portion of the province and is bounded on the north by the Vincent and Maniototo Counties; on the east by that of the Taieri; on the south by those of Bruce and Clutha, and on the west by that of Southland. Its area is one thousand three hundred and sixty five square miles. No portion of the Tuapeka County touches the coast.

Although Lawrence is frequently spoken of as being in Central Otago, the statement is not exactly true as the town is only sixty miles south ^{west} east from Dunedin by rail and distant from the sea coast "as the crow flies" about thirty miles, whereas the width of the province from east to west is from one hundred and sixty to two hundred miles.

The County is drained by the Tuapeka and Waitahuna rivers, both of which flow from north east to south west into the Molyneux River; by the Waipori in the north and the Tokomairiro on the south eastern side. On the northerly fringe of the Tuapeka district are the Lammerlaw Mountains of an average altitude of three thousand feet. The general slope of the country is from the north east to the south west and is more of the nature of gently undulating downs than of hilly country. Looking to the south and southeast from Lawrence an extremely steep slope is noticeable. This is known as the Waitahuna Heights and rises rapidly to about one thousand feet. The climate is intermediate between the damp and cloudy coastal climate and the dry and sunny, but frosty climate of Central Otago proper.

Further geographical features will be described as the course of historical events renders a reference to them necessary.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 104



CHAPTER I.

THE SETTLEMENT OF OTAGO.

(1) Early European Exploration.

The earliest records show that the first white explorer to visit Otago^x was Captain Cook, who sailed down the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand in 1770. To several outstanding features of the land he gave the names by which they are known at the present day -notably Saddle Hill, on account of the remarkable likeness of the hill to a saddle, and Molyneux Harbour, after the sailing master of his ship "The Endeavour".

At the end of the eighteenth century, whalers and sealers began to pursue their callings in these southern waters. Some whaling stations were established along the coast, and in some cases permanent settlements resulted, as at Waikouaiti, founded in 1837, and the Bluff, 1839.

Maoris were living in Kaingas^{Kaiks} or Pas, as they call their villages, situated on the shore wherever Nature had made suitable boat harbours. Unfortunately for the natives, the whalers brought with them a large proportion of the evils of civilisation, with few, if any, of its attendant blessings. The use of intoxicants, the diseases and the immorality introduced by the whalers, many of whom were ex-convicts and the "lowest of the

* "Otago" is the Anglicised form of the Maori word "Otakou"



1229 P. C. ST. CLAIR, DUNEDIN'S FAVORITE WATERING PLACE.

Muir & Moodie

1907.



St. Clair Dunedin FGR 5766.

1921.

low", wrought fearful havoc among the Maoris. Although there were never so many Maoris in the South as there were in the North Island of New Zealand, about 1830 it was estimated that two thousand were then living at Otago Heads, and a thousand at least at the Molyneux. In 1842 when Captain Mein Smith, the Chief Surveyor of the New Zealand Company, was sent by Colonel Wakefield to report upon the harbours on the east coast of Otago with a view to settlement the native population had fallen to about one hundred.

Between the years 1826 and 1843 several Europeans sailed round the coast of Otago and reported variously on the nature of the harbours, the character of the land, and the climate.

In 1843 the first inland exploration was made. Dr. Shortland, Sub-Protector of the Aborigines then visited Otago to assist in an enquiry into certain land claims. To those who know the fashionable seaside resort of St. Clair at the present day it seems almost incredible that there could have stood "the trackless bush" in which the Doctor and his companions lost their way. They crossed the Taieri Plain, but saw nothing among its wiry grass, coarse fern and extensive swamps to give even an indication of its wonderful latent fertility.

While on this trip, Dr. Shortland is reported to have learned from "an intelligent native, Huruhuru, the first specific and reliable information regarding the interior of the island and of the lakes which had always figured in the earliest maps. Dr. Shortland reproduced the map as drawn by Huruhuru in his book."*

* Contributions to the Early History of N.Z." by T.M.Hocken.
P. 39.

The next traveller to walk overland was Frederick Tuckett, appointed in 1844 by Colonel Wakefield to select and purchase a site for the New Edinburgh Settlement. With Maori guides he walked from Waikouaiti through dense bush over hills and down gullies where even the Maoris had never been before. They reached the shore at Koputai where at the ^{entrance to} ~~head of~~ the fine natural harbour, there now stands Port Chalmers. Continuing over bush-covered hills and low lying ground beset with swamps and flax bushes, they crossed the Taieri Plain and traversed the country as far south as the Bluff. Then fully convinced that he was selecting the very best site for the Settlement, Tuckett set about making arrangements for the purchase of the land from the Otago Heads to the Molyneux.

(ii) The New Edinburgh Settlement.

In the early thirties of the nineteenth century, emigration and colonisation were subjects of great public interest in the United Kingdom. Emigration had already taken place to Canada and Australia with results which were proving satisfactory.

By 1840, the New Zealand Company had entered into negotiations with a number of gentlemen in Scotland for the foundation on the Wakefield principle of a Scottish Colony in New Zealand. There was a great deal of poverty in Scotland. Food and work were scarce. Emigration, it was believed, would bring relief. It was not, however, till the Great Disruption of the Church of Scotland that the negotiations of the New Zealand Company met with success. Then like the "Pilgrim Fathers" of 1620, the persecuted separatists sought a home where they might have freedom of worship, peace and security.

A Lay Association of the Free Church of Scotland was formed to carry out the emigration scheme and special provision was made for the setting aside of a sum of money sufficient for endowments, which were to be devoted to the religious and the educational purposes of the Free Church alone.

By December 1847 about two hundred and fifty emigrants whose common object was the production of a soundly educated, religious and thriving community set sail for Otago. A sturdy band of men and women were these pioneers who, if at times appearing to the close observer to hold too tight a hand on this world's wealth and to be slow and canny of action, yet possessed the nobler qualities of dauntless courage, loyalty to the best traditions of their race, and unswerving tenacity of purpose.

(iii) The Otago Block.

The Otago Block consisted at first of four hundred thousand acres and was purchased in 1844 from the Maoris by Colonel Wakefield for £2,400, a penny halfpenny per acre.

In 1845, the New Zealand Company appointed Charles Henry Kettle to survey the land purchased. After taking a ten days' journey on foot in order to determine the best way of dividing the land into blocks for surveys, Kettle let five contracts and employed eleven surveyors. By the middle of 1847 the task was completed.

On the 23rd. of March 1848, in the "John Wickliffe" came the first of the settlers. Others followed at varying intervals, till by the end of the year seven hundred and forty five souls

had entered into possession of the land. They were to be seen clearing away the bush off their sections, building houses, preparing plots for vegetables and erecting fences.

Eight years later, J. S. Thomson speaks of "a little muddy village" called by the Colonists Dunedin, which is the Gaelic for Edinburgh. There was then a population of over twenty four thousand, scattered throughout the Otago Block. They were restricted at first to the four hundred thousand acres with a width of about twenty miles inland. As their numbers increased they allowed their stock to wander over the waste lands.

(iv) Land Regulations in Otago.

The settlement was in 1856 for the purposes of better government divided into eight districts called Hundreds. Rural lands were for sale within these Hundreds at ten shillings per acre, with the forty shilling per acre improvement clause. This meant that as soon as improvements on the land had been made to the value of forty shillings per acre, the tax of two shillings per acre per annum was remitted. Outside the Hundreds were six hundred thousand acres for sale also at ten shillings per acre in blocks of not less than two thousand acres; but without the improvement clause. Depasturing licenses were issued and everything was done to encourage settlement on the land.

These large areas were known as "runs" and were distinguished by number. A runholder was allowed a lease for fourteen years with a pre-emptive right of purchase on his run of eighty acres for his principal station, and ten acres for each out-station. In these

days the annual tax was a shilling a head for cattle and sixpence for sheep.

In order to prevent "land-grabbing", the runholder was bound to place a certain number of sheep and cattle on every thousand acres of his lease and to have it fully stocked six months after taking out the lease. This system of leasing not only interfered with the closer settlement of the country because the runholders naturally picked out for themselves the best pieces of land; but also led to much discontent and strife as will be shown in a later chapter.

(v) Tuapeka.

Among the first to explore the interior of Otago were the Shennan Brothers, who had come from Scotland particularly to take up sheep farming. They found the land from the Tokomairoro Plain to the Waitahuna River occupied by the runholders James Smith and John Cargill. Part of this land was known as Runs 51 and 51A, in that part of the country called Tuapeka. The word "Tuapeka" is the Maori name for the common fern (*Pteris Aquilina*) which was, and still is, found in large quantities in the vicinity. The remainder of the Tuapeka Run was known as Bellamy Station and in 1857 was the property of Davey and Bowler.

The explorers happened to pitch their tent one night in the gully, afterwards the famous Gabriel's Gully; but they little thought then of that tremendous wealth which lay buried beneath them and which was destined so soon to have a far reaching influence on the future of the Province.

The Shennans continued their way to the Molyneux River

where it passes through Beaumont, which is also at the present day in the Tuapeka County. While in this district, they met George Munro, one of the head shepherds on Bellamy Station, and Black Peter, a waggon-driver and prospector - both important characters in the history of Tuapeka.

Before the Shennans reached the Manuherikia Valley in which they eventually settled, they met a Government Survey party under the leadership of J. T. Thomson. This was the first systematic survey of the interior that had been made and the reports proved very valuable.

In telling the story of his adventures, it is interesting to note that J. Thomson refers to the dearth of Maoris in Otago. He saw for the first time a haka danced, but with this drawback that it was done by only one performer.

Another character - soon to play a part in the history of Tuapeka, reached Otago in 1859. This was the Revd. A. B. Todd, who was the first Minister to settle at Tokomairiro. To reach the scene of his labours only about forty miles distant took him and his wife nearly a week, and necessitated travelling by bullock sledge, dray, boat and horseback.

Once a quarter the Revd. A. B. Todd took a tour through the far distant parts of his charge to minister to the runholders and shepherds. On these occasions he frequently crossed the site on which the town of Lawrence now stands, and spent the night in the hut of George Munro, the shepherd. Everywhere he was welcomed by the settlers whose up-bringing had made their religion very real and precious to them. On horse and on foot they came to join in the

service of praise and to hear the Word of God.

Thus in the past twelve years - 1848 to 1860, much had been accomplished by the perseverance, the patience and the labour of the early colonists. In their desire for land they had pushed their way far into the interior. The traffic of sheep and cattle going to their new pastures, and of drays and sledges carrying the stores necessary for the runholders made tracks which eventually determined the directions the roads were to take. Fences were being erected and necessary buildings were under construction. Wool was being exported in ever increasing quantities. From the southern and south-eastern parts of the country it went by way either of Port Molyneux or Taieri Mouth, and from the northern parts by way of Waikouaiti, where "Johnny Jones" a well known whaler carried on a large trade with Sydney in New South Wales, Australia. In this way the advance guard of the pastoralists was opening up the country, and was preparing the way for the making of the discoveries which during the next two years were to cause the Province to develop by leaps and bounds.

CHAPTER II.

THE GOLD DISCOVERIES OF 1861, and LIFE ON
THE DIGGINGS.

(1) Early Indications of Gold.

It is remarkable that the thought of a gold discovery in their Province was at first quite foreign to the minds of the early settlers, and did not appeal to their steady cautious ways of progress. Records of this are numerous in the annals of these early days. When the discovery of 1851 was reported to Captain Cargill, he was not at all elated by the news, nor did he take any steps to encourage such discoveries.

Although the Maoris knew of the existence of gold in the Province before the coming of the white man, it is certain that they did not value it. A native chief, Tewaewae, had told some whalers that there was plenty of the yellow stone of which the white men made their watch seals to be found on the river beaches inland, chiefly along those of the Molyneux.* A party had in 1852 explored the beaches of this river, but were unsuccessful in their search for gold.

In 1853, gold was found in small quantities at Hindon, and in 1856 on the beach of the Mataura River. J. T. Thomson and his assistant Garvie, a Geologist, reported having seen certain geological formations in which gold was known to occur.

Thus, as time went on, the fact that there was gold in the province was realised by the settlers. Some hundreds of men had left Otago for the Nelson goldfields in the north of the South Island ~~of~~
* "History of the Early Gold Discoveries in Otago." Pyke. P2.

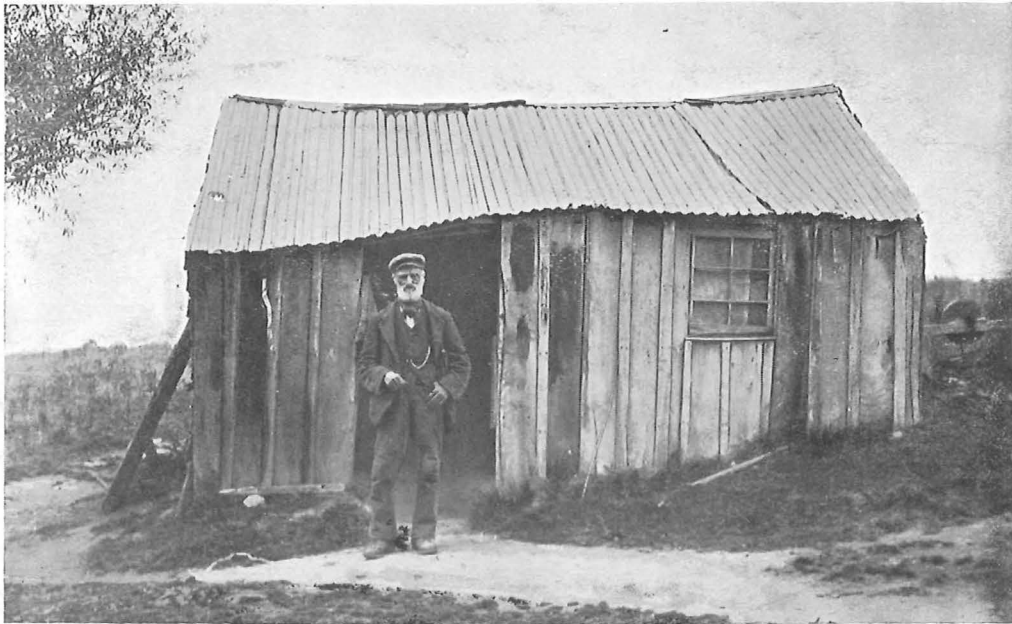
~~New Zealand~~, and were continually sending good reports. The settlers were anxious to see the population increase in their province, and thinking that a discovery of gold would prove a benefit to them and their province, they petitioned the Provincial Council * that a reward might be offered for the discovery of a payable goldfield within the province. The request was granted in 1857, and £500 was set aside for the purpose.

In the next year, 1858, great excitement was caused by Samuel McIntyre's discovery of gold at the Lindis. This, however, as the "Otago Witness" stated in July 1861 did not prove in any way to be a payable goldfield. McIntyre's claim to the bonus, though supported by many settlers, was consequently invalid.

(ii) The Discovery of Gabriel's Gully.

So far prospects did not look good for the discovery of the much desired gold-field, but persevering prospectors were still at work. Among these was Edward Peters, better known as "Black Peter", a native of Bombay, who was employed on Davey and Bowler's sheep station at Evan's Flat. Some time previously when at Balclutha he had been shown a sample of gold by a Californian, and learned from him that gold was usually found where white-quartz prevailed. Naturally shrewd and intelligent, "Black Peter", recalled the fact that he had often seen the Woolshed Creek strewn with quartz pebbles. Consequently he conceived the idea that gold must exist in the district. It was in the northern part of it that he first found gold. This was

* i.e., the local Legislature for the Province.



MR. GEORGE MUNRO AFTER WHOM MUNRO'S GULLY IS NAMED. 1911.
 Mr Munro is 81 years of age, and came to Tuapeka in 1857. The hut was erected 40
 years ago out of the original timber of the home in Munro's Gully.



THE PLACE WHERE BLACK PETER FIRST FOUND GOLD, EVANS FLAT.
 Mr G. Munro (pointing with stick) and Mr William Smith. 1911.

in the Tuapeka Creek where it passes through Evans' Flat about five miles from Gabriel's Gully. Though he and his companion worked in the Creek for several months they could not extract gold in payable quantities - the real cause of their failure being that they did not know how to work the ground.

"All the world's a stage" on which each one plays his part, and Black Peter's part though not profitable to himself was important in leading the man with the knowledge of practical mining to the place where the gold was.

It happened that while "Black Peter" was prospecting at Evans' Flat, J.L. Gillies of Tokomairiro had come up to the Tuapeka country after some strayed horses, and had spent an hour or two with "Black Peter", whom he described as only "hen-scratching" on the edges of the Creek. At a political meeting a short time later, Gillies met Gabriel Read, a miner who had both Californian and Tasmanian experience in gold mining. To him Gillies related Black Peter's experiences, saying that he himself hoped shortly to have an opportunity of testing the ground properly. Gabriel Read "caught the gold fever" and set out at once. Gillies gave him a letter to Peter Robertson who was head shepherd on the Tuapeka run owned at that time by John Cargill and later by Musgrave and Murray.

Having spent the night with the kindly shepherd, he was informed where Black Peter had been prospecting. Read set out prospecting as he went, till evening when he met a shepherd, George Munro, who was then in the employ of James Smith of Greenfield, and who insisted on Read's spending that night in his hut. Next morning the two set out together, but parted at the head of what was about to be known as the famous gully. Gabriel Read followed down the creek

Some Pioneers of Tuapeka - 1861.



MR AND MRS P. ROBERTSON,
Who befriended many of the early miners.



BLACK PETER



GABRIEL READ.



MR G. MUNRO.
Of Munroe's Gully.



MRS MUNRO.



MAJOR RICHARDSON.
Superintendent in 1861.

and before night closed in on that day, May 20th, 1861, he had made the discovery so long expected and destined to have such far reaching results. In his own words he thus describes his find:-

"At a place where a kind of road crossed on a shallow bar I shovelled away two and a half feet of ground, arrived at a beautiful soft slate and saw the gold shining like the stars in Orion on a dark frosty night." *

Realising the importance of his discovery, like the true explorer that he was, he did not hesitate in giving the secret to his fellow men for their benefit and that of the Province. He accordingly at once sent the following communication to Major Richardson, Superintendent of the Province.

"Tokomairiro, 4th June 1861.

To Major Richardson,

Sir,

I take the liberty of troubling you with a short report on the result of a gold prospecting tour which I commenced about a fortnight since, and which occupied me about ten days. During that period I travelled inland about thirty-five miles and examined the ravines and tributaries of the Waitahuna and Tuapeka rivers.

My equipment consisted of a tent, blankets, spade, tin dish, butcher's knife and about a week's provisions. I examined a large area of country and washed pans of earth in

* Gabriel Read's letter to the Hon. V. Pyke giving an account of his discovery - "History of the Early Gold Discoveries". P. 127.

different localities. I found at many places prospects which would hold out a certainty that men with the proper tools would be munificently remunerated, and in one place for ten hours' work with pan and butcher's knife I was enabled to collect about seven ounces of gold.

I have now had constructed proper machinery and tools, and will be able in the course of a few days to report with more certainty. Mr. John Hardy, the Member for the district, will accompany me, and on his return communicate personally with Your Honour. His earnestness in favour of a Goldfield's discovery has so pleased me that I have been induced to make him my confidant, and he has kindly placed his time at my disposal.

Had I made anything like an exhibition of my gold, the Plain would have been deserted by all the adult inhabitants the next day and the farmers would have suffered seriously from a neglect of agricultural operations at this season of the year.

Although the being able to work secretly for a time would greatly benefit me, I feel it my duty to impart these facts. To know that the stream of population must set through Waihola rather than Oamaru I consider it important for you to know.

These communications are made in confidence that my secret is safe with Major Richardson, but if a disclosure is of any benefit to the public interest, you are at liberty to treat this as a public communication to the Superintendent. Mr. Hardy will be in town in the course of a week, and I think perhaps you

"might do well to await his return, when he will impart the result of his trip. At all events I leave myself as a client under your Honour's patronage, convinced that by so doing I take the most certain course to insure the benefit to which I may some day be considered entitled for this important discovery.

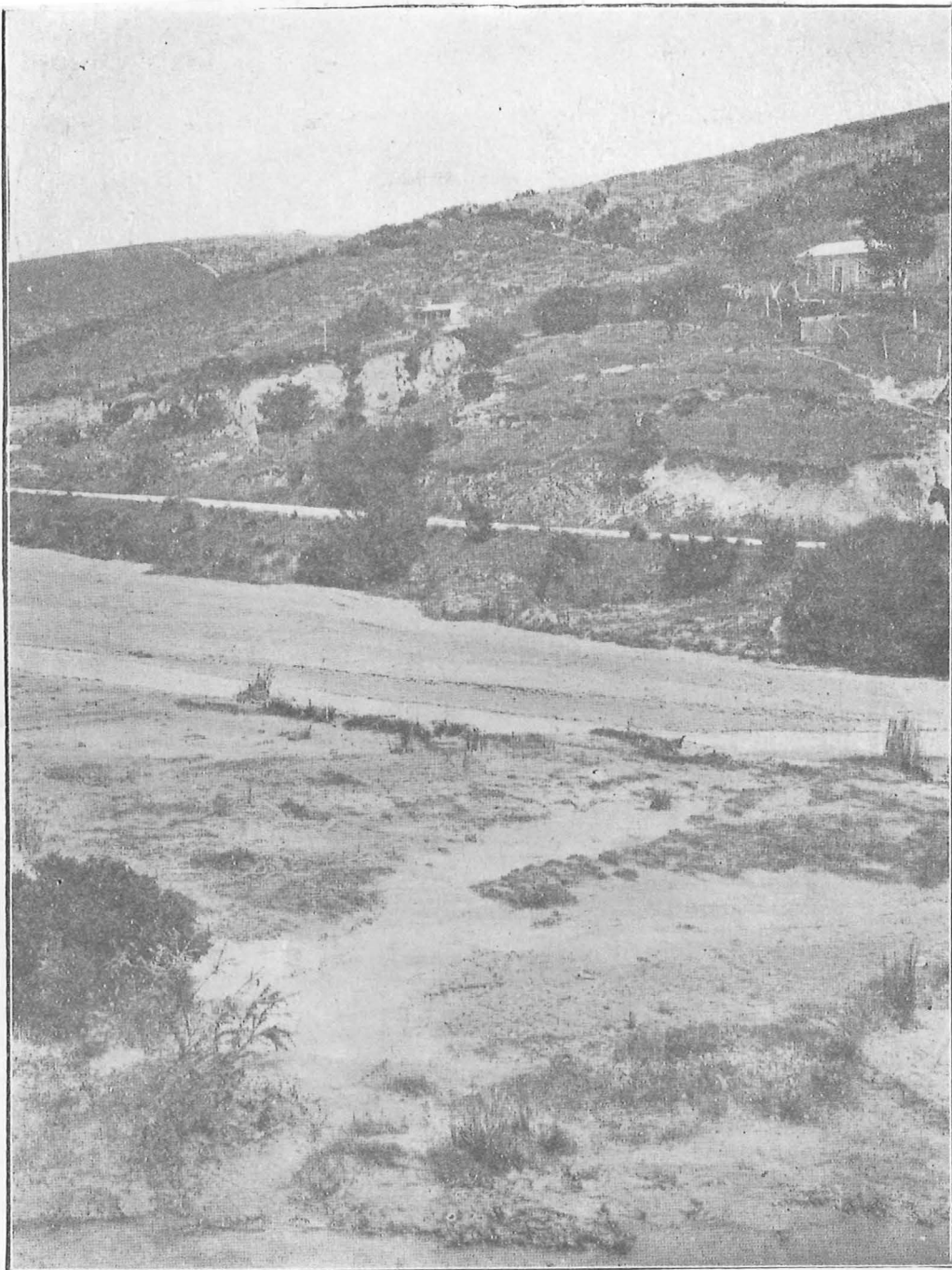
Mr. Hardy will be able to show you what I think may be specimens of copper ore; if it is so there is a great quantity in the mountains, and rich seams of coal in its vicinity.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) THOS. GABRIEL READ." *

* "History of Early Gold Discoveries". Hon. V. Pyke.



LOOKING ACROSS GABRIEL'S GULLY, SHOWING GABRIEL READ'S CLAIM IN FOREGROUND.
The spot where the man is standing is the place where Read had his hut.

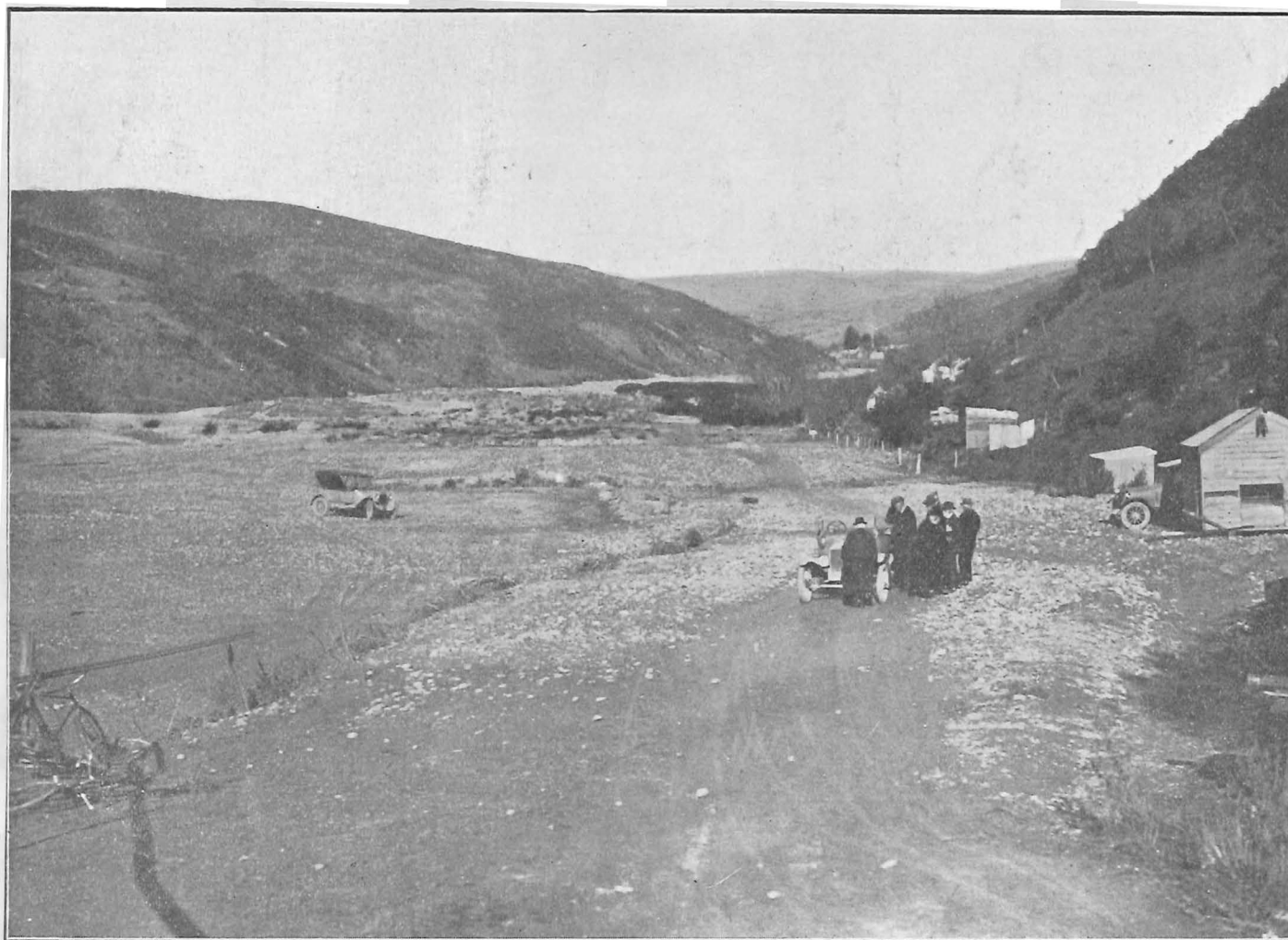
(iii) The "Rush" to Tuapeka.

Naturally when this letter appeared in the "Witness" there was great excitement throughout the country. The news seemed too good to be true, and though a few daring adventurers did set out immediately for Tuapeka the majority waited for more information. This time, however, confirmation of the good news was not long in coming. Mr. Hardy having returned from the trip, referred to in Gabriel 'Read's letter, told the members of the Provincial Council assembled to hear this report that "in company with Gabriel Read he had prospected country about thirty one miles long by five broad and in every hole they had sunk, they had found the precious metal."

Major Richardson announced that he had also just received reports from the new goldfields, saying that gold was easily obtainable and that in large quantities. He requested that the Council would pass measures for the preservation of order on the goldfields and for the safe conduct of gold to Dunedin. The Council, delighted with the news, passed unanimously a resolution giving Major Richardson the power of taking such action in the various matters as might to him seem fit and cordially placing in his hands the necessary powers, confident that the necessary provision would be properly made and no unnecessary expenditure of public money incurred. It was also resolved to obtain from Melbourne an Inspector of Police and some experienced constables from the Victoria Police Force. Before any well-defined gold-field had been discovered, an Act had been passed in 1853 to compensate any runholder for the discovery of gold on his run and to impose an export duty on gold of half-a-crown per ounce subject to certain conditions.



GABRIEL'S GULLY IN 1862, WHEN THE RUSH FOR GOLD WAS AT ITS HEIGHT.



VIEW OF GABRIEL'S GULLY FROM THE BLUE SPUR.

1921.

Then the "Rush" began in real earnest. The people on the Tokomairiri Plain were the first to be seen eager to cover the thirty miles that lay between them and the goldfield. There was a tremendous exodus of young and old, masters and servants with only one aim, namely that of getting to the goldfield and making their fortunes.

"During the first week of the 'rush' to Tuapeka ", the Rev. A. B. Todd tells us, "the Plain had the appearance of an ordinary Sabbath - it was so still and quiet. But on the second week a marvellous change took place. A constant stream of people ^{flowed} through the Plain on to the diggings. The roads such as they were, were crowded with horsemen and footmen, carts and drays and other vehicles. It was a stirring, bustling scene. In a few weeks the excitement was renewed when the road swarmed with thousands of men from the neighbouring colonies hastening to the Eldorado." *

By the time half of Dunedin was on its way to Tuapeka, crowds of settlers from the northern settlements were hurrying into the town, all on the same object bent. Cartage to the up country runs, which before the "rush" was charged at £10 per ton rose to £60, and £100 per ton. Provisions increased tremendously in price, accommodation was taxed to its utmost, and diggers were glad of any covered-in space where they might roll themselves in their blankets and snatch a few hours of rest. As soon as the news of the discovery of gold reached Victoria in Australia, thousands of emigrants came over to try their luck. The hill-sides of Dunedin were white with tents of the newly arrived diggers who stayed only long enough to acquire the necessary information and equipment for their new undertakings.

* "Memorials of the Past". P. 20.

James McIndoe in his letter of June 24th 1861, printed in "The Otago Witness" gives for the benefit of the public an account of his excursion to the Tuapeka goldfield. He says "the track (that is, from the Plain) is well defined and leads through the finest grass country in the Province, which at an early date should be declared into Hundreds and opened for sale. The flats and spurs are in almost every respect highly suited for agriculture and would meet a ready market. The extent of the valley (Gabriel's Gully) is about three miles long by one quarter of a mile in breadth. There is plenty of water. The road could be made easy for drays at a cost of £50 and there is as much firewood lying about as will last for some time. Parties intending to set out for the field should provide themselves with a spade, tin dish and material for making a cradle, besides a week or two's provisions and a tent." *

The Provincial Government found the greatest difficulty in improving the roads. Traffic was, however, eased through the sending of goods by sea to the Taieri River and then by boat up the Taieri to the head of Lake Waihola, where they were transferred to waggons or drays. Small river steamers also plied between Scrogg's Creek, where Allanton now stands, and Clarendon - a distance of about twenty five miles.

There were two routes from Dunedin to Tuapeka - the longer and easier by way of East Taieri Plain to Lake Waihola, across the Tokomairiro Plain to the Woolshed, along the ridges of Mount Stuart and Round Hill down to Waitahuna and over the hill to Tuapeka. The second led by the West Taieri across the Maungatua Range to

* Letter from James McIndoe to "The Otago Witness", June 28th 1861.

Waipori and down the hill into Weatherston and thence to Gabriel's Gully about three miles distant along the flat.

(iv) Typical Experiences on the Way to the Diggings.

On hearing of the Otago Goldfield discovery, a party of five speedily set out from Melbourne, Australia, to try their luck. Learning also that cartage to the diggings was £125 per ton, but knowing nothing of the country, they brought with them a handcart, and on reaching Dunedin immediately loaded it with the necessary equipment, including 13 large loaves and about 40 lbs. of flour. Taking the West Taieri road, they set out without any loss of time, but had not gone far before they found tremendous difficulty in getting their heavily laden handcart over the hills. "Casual spectators were much amused by their struggles and one old Scotch lady declared, 'You'll na tak that thing to the diggings'. A Cornishman in the party was however determined not to part with the hand-cart. The Silverstream was reached that evening. The so-called road across the Taieri Plain was bad and the soil very holding, but the party ascended Maungatua for about two miles before encamping. Next day in descending, the ill-defined track was missed and the party came near losing the hand-cart in crossing the Waipori River. Gabriel's Gully was at length reached, after a toilsome and trying journey."

Perseverance does not always meet with its reward, but in this case history records that "the party stuck close to their claim, working from sunrise to sunset. On Saturday afternoon, firewood for the week was laid in, and Sunday was observed as a day of rest. After working for about four months as a good "rise"

had been made, it was decided to take a spell and all the outfit was sold save the hand-cart. A carter agreed to take the party and the hand-cart to Dunedin, where an hour after their arrival the hand-cart was sold for £5. The same afternoon all left for Melbourne by the 'City of Hobart'." *

Those diggers who went on foot, as the great majority did, had to carry swags from sixty to eighty pounds in weight, and found themselves many a time knee deep in mud and drenched with rain, - for it was in the depth of winter that the "rush" began. Often caught in snow-storms, they plodded on, seldom down-hearted and always ended by getting to the diggings. They did not always meet with the fortune they expected, but work was usually plentiful and life was free and easy.

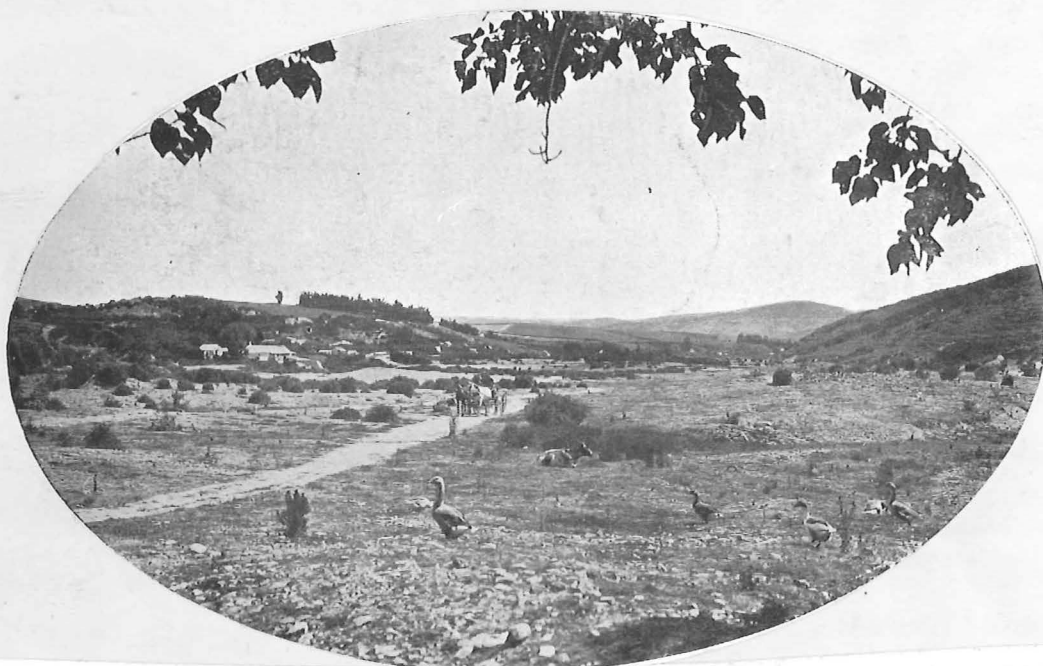
The greatest hardships were endured by those who undertook to convey necessities for the miners in drays and waggons over the trackless country. It was hardly safe for one load to travel alone and the waggoners, like the diggers, usually travelled in companies. There was seldom a team that was not stuck in a swamp at least once on the way. This meant the unyoking of the bullocks, and the carrying of the load in sections on the waggoner's back or in his arms across the mud till all was unloaded. By means of bands of flax or rope made fast to the axles of the waggon and to the animals on dry ground, the waggon would at last be drawn out, and then reloaded, the animals again yoked up and the journey resumed. Such an adventure frequently took place in the middle of a river, and very often three or four times before Tuapeka was reached.

* "Gabriel's Gully Jubilee" Pamphlet. P. 39.

Of all the visitors to the goldfield, the waggoner always received the heartiest welcome. He was the true friend of the digger - on whom he depended for the very necessities of life. Eagerly did the miners with their pannikins flock round the newly arrived waggons, ready to pay the prices fixed by the Committee. As there were no weights, everything that could be measured by the pannikin, such as flour, rice, sugar, was sold in this way.

The prices fixed usually allowed the waggoner a large profit, which, however, was never grudged to him. Flour at Tuapeka, in 1861 cost 1/- or more per lb., salt 10d. per lb., tea from 5/- to 6/- per lb., butter 3/6 per lb., sugar 1/6 per lb., mutton 1/- to 1/6 per lb., tobacco 6/- per lb., picks 16/-, buckets £1, shovels from 14/- to £1. Bread was usually about 4/- per 4 lb. loaf, though in times of scarcity flour reached 1/10 per lb., and the 4 lb. loaf 7/4. Miners thought little of paying a guinea a dozen for eggs, and a shilling each for tallow candles.

For "fresh" food the miners were dependent on "Captain Cooks" or wild pigs, which were very plentiful in the early days. One digger even went to the trouble of taming a small pig which followed him about like a dog, causing great amusement to the onlookers, especially when the strange companions went together to the township. James Smith of Greenfield used to send his head shepherd up to Gabriel's two or three times a week with a mob of fat wethers. The miners gladly paid £2 for a sheep and then had to catch it. Sometimes Peter Robertson and George Munro killed bullocks and sold the meat, which made a welcome change of diet for the diggers. Their need for fresh vegetables was not always so easily satisfied. James Elder, in a letter written at the time of the Jubilee, 1911, recalling memories of these



WHERE GOLD WAS FIRST DISCOVERED IN THE WAITAHUNA DISTRICT. 1911.

days, mentions that turnips were then practically unknown in Australia, and relates how a certain settler who had dug his turnips had them all carried away from his field which bordered the main route to the diggings by the passing miners, each taking one or two.

(v) Other Discoveries of Gold in the Tuapeka District.

The ground of the Tuapeka district provides another illustration of the proverb - "It never rains but it pours". Only a few days after Gabriel Read had made his famous discovery, Mrs. Munro, wife of the shepherd who befriended the prospector, discovered gold in Munro's Gully, just across the dividing range from Gabriel's. Mrs. Munro had been digging with a carving knife when she suddenly struck gold. Immediately there was a "rush" of miners, from over the range, eager to peg out claims on the new field which proved to be payable only to a limited extent.

Eight miles from Gabriel's Gully lies the district of Waitahuna. Here on July 19th, a payable goldfield was discovered by Gabriel Read. Captain Baldwin accompanied the famous discoverer on his expedition to Waitahuna and under Read's directions washed out the first tin-dishful of stuff. As soon as the miners heard of the new discovery, another "rush" set in - claims were left - swags packed and their owners, heedless of everything except to be among the first on the new field, departed in the manner characteristic of the digger.

A third discovery made a few months after these others happened in this way. One of two brothers who had not been successful in their operations at Gabriel's, went out pig shooting in a neighbouring gully. He shot two and leaving one hidden among the tussock,

took the other home, sold it for £1 and procured the stores he and his brother needed. Next day the brothers went to get the other pig, and took a pick and shovel with them, intending to do some prospecting. From one hole they extracted that day about thirty ounces of gold and intended to continue at work the next day. In some way the news of their find became public and "at eight o'clock in the morning the miners were coming over the spur into the gully like a swarm of bees."

The name of the brothers was Weatherston. This name was given to the gully, and over the spelling of the name there has been a great deal of controversy. In a foot-note in the New Zealand Mining Handbook 1906^{*} it is written "Weatherstone's is variously spelt in different publications. James McKerrow F.G.S. late Surveyor-General, on being asked by the Editor of the Mining Handbook as to the correct orthography courteously replied as follows:- 'In reply to your letter as to the proper spelling of Weatherstone, the name of a small settlement on a flat three miles from Lawrence on the road to the Waipori, I have to state that a family of that name in the early sixties lived in a house on the line of the mountain track half way between Port Chalmers and Dunedin. I did not know them, but I believe I am correct in stating that it was one of them who was the first to discover and open out a claim on the flat which now bears the name of Weatherstones just as in a similar manner the gully where Gabriel Read discovered gold was, and is, known as Gabriel's situated close to and partly in Lawrence. The place where the Weatherstones had their house on the track between Dunedin and Port Chalmers is also known as

* P. 269.

Weatherstones.

In the late Professor Hutton's Geology of Otago, published 1879, he refers to Weatherstone and Weatherstones in his explanation of the geology of the Tuapeka district. The other spellings which you give are evidently corruptions of Weatherstone'.^x

The earliest recorded spelling is 'Wetherston' and this is found on the first authentic map of the district.

As the place was named after a family, it was not a difficult matter for the writer of this history to trace the family. The eldest living descendent, Gilbert Weatherston, resident on January 15th 1920 at 46, Helena Street, Caversham, South Dunedin ^x stated that his great grandfather was of a very retiring nature, and although his family often urged that he should take steps to have the place named after him correctly spelled, he did not do so. The correct spelling according to the family's name is "Weatherston".

Weatherston's proved to be a greater discovery at first than Gabriel's and as it was the chief settlement for a time more has yet to be said about it in the course of this history.

Before the close of 1861, gold had also been discovered at Waipori about twenty miles distant in the north easterly direction from Gabriel's Gully. This part of Tuapeka lying on the shorter route from Dunedin was frequently crossed by diggers, the more enterprising of whom would often prospect for gold in gullies adjoining their camps, and it was in this way that gold was discovered here. Perhaps the most profitable alluvial deposit was that on a tributary of the Waipori called the Verterburn, but commonly spoken

^x The New Zealand Mining Handbook 1906, P.269. Foot Note.

^x Electoral Roll, Dunedin 1920.

of by the miners as Post Office Creek.

Most of the gold obtained in Tuapeka is remarkable fine and of a scaly appearance. No immense nuggets such as those found on the Australian goldfields have yet been discovered anywhere in New Zealand. Of the nuggets found in Tuapeka most have come from the Waipori goldfield where the largest is reported as having weighed twenty seven ounces. One gully in this neighbourhood yielded numerous smaller nuggets and won for itself the name of "Nuggety Gully".

Although at one time as many as a thousand diggers are reported to have been at work on its alluvial mines, Waipori, on account of its comparatively isolated position and the limited amount of gold obtainable did not prove more than ordinarily lucrative. The discovery of quartz reefs in 1862 opened up a new source of gold to which reference will be made later.

(vi) Gabriel Read's Reward.

Thus it was proved beyond all doubt that a really payable goldfield had been discovered. In July 1861 Black Peter forwarded to the Provincial Government a claim for the bonus offered, in recognition of his services as the first discoverer of gold in the Tuapeka and Waitahuna Rivers. Although Black Peter's discoveries were most certainly instrumental in leading Gabriel Read to the locality in which he made the discovery, no notice whatever was taken of his claim.

Gabriel Read was the first discoverer of gold in the gully that bears his name, and as it was a remunerative goldfield leading to further discoveries being made in the neighbouring gullies, Major

Richardson recommended to the Council that the bonus should be paid to Gabriel Read as a reward for the services he had rendered to the Province.

Although in the Council meeting an amendment was moved that the bonus should be increased to £1,000, which sum was being offered for similar discoveries in the Provinces of Canterbury and Southland, it was lost on the voices. In November 1861, Gabriel Read received his award of £500. After his famous discovery Read was for several months employed as a prospector by the Government. His enthusiasm, which successful results would have stimulated, waned as a result of repeated disappointments, and in May 1862 he relinquished his connexion with the gold discoveries of Otago. Major Richardson again pointed out to the Council the immense importance to the Province of Read's discovery, the generous manner in which he had placed that discovery at the disposal of the Government, and his subsequent prospecting without remuneration. The Council, at last convinced of the value of Read's services, granted him another £500. "Thus the pioneer of the Otago Goldfields was finally rewarded by the gift of £1,000 well deserved and well earned, and gained by his capacity for practically utilising information." He drifted back to Tasmania, where he died a poor man in 1894.

Although no recognition was at this time made of Black Peter's services, yet in 1885 when he was found in Balclutha, Otago, living in absolute need, through the Goldfield Committee representation was made to the Government that something should be done for him, and a sum of £50 was promised on the condition that a similar sum should be raised by public subscription. The matter was taken in hand, the necessary sum collected, and with the help of interest

on the investment of the £100, Black Peter was enabled to spend the remaining years of his life in tolerable comfort.

CHAPTER III.

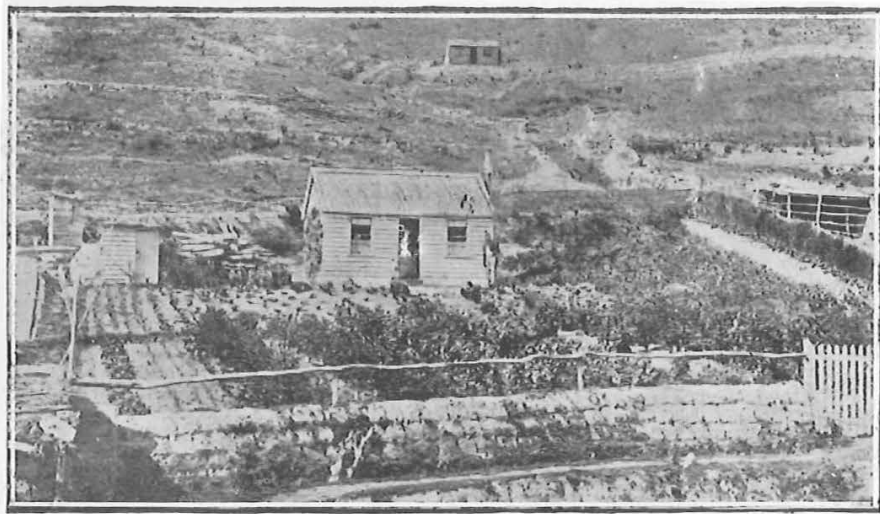
THE RISE OF INSTITUTIONS AT GABRIEL'S AND WEATHERSTON.

(i) "Bogus Rushes".

Although all the "rushes" to reported discoveries of gold described in the last chapter proved successful, it must not be imagined that every "rush" met with success. It was a characteristic peculiar to the digger that whenever he heard even the slightest whisper of a new discovery of gold he was immediately possessed by an insatiable desire to proceed at once to the suspected gold field without waiting for even a reasonable assurance that his efforts would not be in vain. Consequently diggers met with many disappointments - a notable one being in the Blue Mountains, between fifty and ninety miles west of Gabriel's Gully, to which no fewer than three thousand people from Tuapeka and Waitahuna are reported to have set out. On this occasion a man named Sam Perkins undertook to lead some miners to the discovery; but as no gold could be found, Perkins confessed to the hoax and requested to be shot. The miners, however, tried him, found him guilty of deceiving them and sentenced him to be flogged. He received two dozen lashes and had his hair cropped. Eventually when they returned to Tuapeka he was handed over to the police. Such "bogus rushes" did not serve even as a warning to the miner, who was just as ready as before to "rush" to the next reported discovery without waiting for confirmation of the truth of the report.

(ii) Miners and Business Rights.

The first duty of a miner was to take out a Miner's Right,



*A Typical Miner's Typical Residence
1840.*

costing in Tuapeka never more than £1, holding good for a year and entitling the owner to dig for gold, to be an elector of the Province, an elector of members for the Warden's Court and to possess half an acre residential area adjoining his claim. This proved a wise provision, tending as it did to make a miner's residence in one place more permanent and to encourage settlement on the land.

No person had the right to reside on a goldfield without a miner's or a business licence, except clergymen, schoolmasters, Government officials, domestic servants, women and children. Moreover, no one might buy or sell on a goldfield without a licence, non-transferable and costing £5. Under the Goldfields' Act 1862, no land could be sold within a goldfield, though with the consent of the Government, it might be leased.

Government regulations such as these only gradually became known, owing to the very imperfect means of communication in those days. One enterprising settler had the meaning of a land regulation made clear to him in the following startling and unexpected manner. He had become so exasperated with the mud between Weatherston and Gabriel's Gully that he built a private bridge and charged toll on all who crossed it. The Inspector of Licenses happened to pass over one day and was of course challenged and toll demanded.

"For what?" asked the indignant Inspector.

"Why, for passing over my bridge!"

"Who gave you permission to erect a bridge?" demanded the Inspector.

"Oh, the Major", was the reply.

"Have you a business licence to occupy Crown Lands?"

"No", answered the settler.



A VETERAN ILLUSTRATING HOW THE GOLD IS SAVED
BY "CRADLING" THE WASH DIRT. 1921.

"Then, if you don't take one out at once, I'll summon you!"

The toll keeper looked aghast at this information; but he had to forfeit £5 and the public had the advantage of crossing without being bogged.^x

(iii) The Claim.

Having secured his "Right" the miner would hasten to peg out his claim, which was always placed as near as possible to running water. Each miner was at first allowed twenty four square feet with a three foot boundary. If a claim were left unoccupied for a day it might be appropriated. "Every claim in these days was adorned with its "whip" - a queer contrivance consisting of a post set firmly in the ground on which a long manuka pole worked in a swivel, or was fastened by strips of green hide. The long end of the pole projected over the hole and had the rope and dirt bucket attached to it. The short end had a heavy weight secured to it to reduce the labours of raising the gold-bearing wash to the surface.^x

The earliest methods of washing the dirt were by the use of the cradle, the "long tom" - really "long tomb" - and the sluice-box. The construction of each was on the same principle. The bottom of the box was covered with a hairy substance such as baize, blanket, sacking or cocoanut matting. Above this was a perforated false bottom on which the dirt was placed - usually a shovelful at a time. A jet of water was then played on to the dirt while the cradle was rocked. In the case of the other two appliances, they were placed

x Otago Witness, April 2, 1862.

X Essay by A.W. Tyndall - A New Zealand Schoolmaster - entitled "Blue Spur".

on a slope, and, as the water ran over the dirt, it was stirred with a shovel, the big stones were thrown out by hand and the water carried away the gravel. Most of the sand and the gold, on account of their heavier specific gravity, sank through the perforations on to the matting from which the gold was easily washed out in water in the miner's "panning off" dish.

These were the very earliest methods of obtaining gold, and though they have generally been superseded by far more efficient methods, as will be described later, they may frequently be seen in use on a goldfield particularly among the Chinese miners.

(iv) Religion.

The first religious service recorded in Tuapeka was conducted by an elder of the Tokomairiro Presbyterian Church on June 30, 1861. This was repeated on the next Sunday, but on the third Sunday, July 13th, the Rev. A. B. Todd conducted Divine Service in the open air at Gabriel's Gully. Standing on a cart he preached to about seven hundred people - all men, for no women had yet arrived on the goldfield. Service was continued in this way by members of the Presbytery coming in turn and staying for a fortnight at a time. A tent was purchased for the accommodation of the Minister who was provided with food from the neighbouring stores or hotels. At first the services were held in the open air, the people standing or sitting on the slopes of the hill around; but later a large preaching tent was erected.

On September 1st, 1861, the Revd. Donald Stuart, Minister of Knox Church, Dunedin, preached his first sermon on the Tuapeka

Goldfield. His text, upon which a contemporary ^x remarks as "singularly, perhaps intensely appropriate" was "And now men see not the bright light which is in the clouds". This implied criticism was probably called forth by the change which had come over the diggings since the arrival of the Australian miners. These newcomers were often called the "new iniquity" in contrast with "the old identity" - the original colonisers. The Australians were a rough class of men - many of them ex-convicts - with an upbringing and a history totally different from that of the sturdy men of the Scottish Kirk race, especially selected, most of them, according to the Wakefield principle.

For the repression and correction of the "new iniquity", the Police Force had to be strengthened. The coming of this new element was, however, not wholly disadvantageous to the community. The whole question was for long an open controversy until the on-coming of more momentous problems affecting the whole settlement caused differences to be sunk in the desire for the common good.

Another well known Minister on the goldfield in 1861 was the Revd. Father Moreau. It is recorded that the first time he appeared in his robes on the diggings "a terrible cry of 'Joe' commenced at the bottom of the gully. It was, however, soon stopped when some of those who knew the Revd. Father Moreau and the ^x character he bore in Dunedin made the fact known".

"Joe" was the cry sounded on the Australian Goldfields that the Police or Gold Commissioners were seen approaching. At Tuapeka the cry was used to announce new-comers or visitors to the field.

* Hon. Vincent Pyke, "History of the Early Gold Discoveries in Otago"
P. 43.

X "Gabriel's Gully Jubilee". P.45.

In 1862, the Revd. Father Moreau came regularly every alternate Sunday to Tuapeka. During the week he travelled about amongst the diggers. In the very severe winter of this year - the severest winter ever experienced on the goldfields - it was a common sight to see the dauntless Priest walking from claim to claim over the snow, carrying in his hand a long stick with which he tested the ground as he went, bringing words of greeting and cheer to the miners. Once on his return journey to Dunedin he was stuck up by the Levy Sullivan gang of bushrangers, but was soon liberated.

(v) The Bushrangers or Highwaymen.

No sooner were the miners in a position to take or send their gold to Dunedin to be sold than the inevitable highwayman made his appearance, and waylaid the unwary traveller. The hilly nature of the scrub-covered country aided the bushrangers and for many years they were a source of terror to travellers.

The first case of highway robbery is recorded in October 1861. One of the most notorious bushrangers of these early sixties was Henry Garrett, an ex-convict from Australia, who with his gang is believed to have committed as many as fifteen robberies in a day. Garrett, whose method of procedure was unique, frequently assumed the role of a surveyor, a swagger, or a digger "on the wallaby", and thus surprised the unsuspecting traveller. No personal injury was done the captives, who were usually tied to trees in such a manner that they could, after some time, wriggle loose, or they were liberated in the evening apparently by a Good Samaritan, in

reality a disguised member of the gang. In January 1862, Garrett was brought back from Sydney by the police and found guilty of being implicated in the Maungatua robbery, for which he was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

The Burgess and Kelly gang early in 1862 erected a tent in the vicinity of Weatherston and lived unsuspected for a long time among the miners. Their crimes, however, found them out, plans for their capture were laid by the police, and after several daring and exciting dashes for freedom the whole gang were caught. On May 22nd 1862, they were sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Two other bushrangers who achieved notoriety at this time were Levy and Sullivan. Levy, with Burgess and Kelly eventually terminated their career by confessing to a charge of murder on the West Coast and were executed at Nelson in October 1866. Sullivan served a term of imprisonment left the country, and is reported as having died in Victoria.

Gradually with increased surveillance on the part of the police, and the clearing of the country for settlement and cultivation, the highwaymen disappeared.

(vi) Coaching Days.

On October 11th 1861, Cobb and Co., an Australian firm, first began the running of coaches to Tuapeka, and Jock Graham, the first regular driver, soon became popular all along the route. He wore a red coat and a feather in his hat, and always carried a horn, one blast of which would cause every miner within earshot to drop his tools and run to learn the news from the outside world. Half a crown was willingly paid for a copy of "The Witness" or "The Australasian"; half a crown too was the cost of sending a

letter. At first the coach ran bi-weekly. A brief description of a typical trip at this time will enable the reader to understand the risks that were undertaken in the venture.

"Soon after leaving Tokomairiro our troubles began; we had to ascend the spur of a range over a track which lay at one time up a steep ascent as well as along perilous sidelings. 'Now, gentlemen, lean well up to the windward' was more than once shouted to us by the driver. We were on a steep sideling, and to produce a proper balance we had all to lean to the upper side. In due time we reached the summit along which we proceeded until we came to a very steep descent where we had to get out. It was raining hard and glad we were to run down at the peril of leaving a boot in the mud and get a little shelter in a canvas inn which was filling with diggers and was every minute becoming more and more like a shower bath."

On January 31, 1862, the first daily mail was run. By a daily mail was meant the coming of the coach one day and its return the next. In the late sixties and early seventies, "Tommy Pope" became the regular driver. He is still living and many an interesting tale of his numerous adventures in those early days he loves to tell. He was beloved by the miners for his geniality and willingness to oblige them whenever he could. For one shilling each he would take their watches to be repaired in Dunedin, and weeks later when the repairs were completed, bring them back for another shilling.

The arrival and departure of the coach continued to be events of daily interest until it was displaced by the opening of the

* "A Vacation Tour to the Antipodes". B.A. Heywood, M.A. 1861-1862.
P. 163.

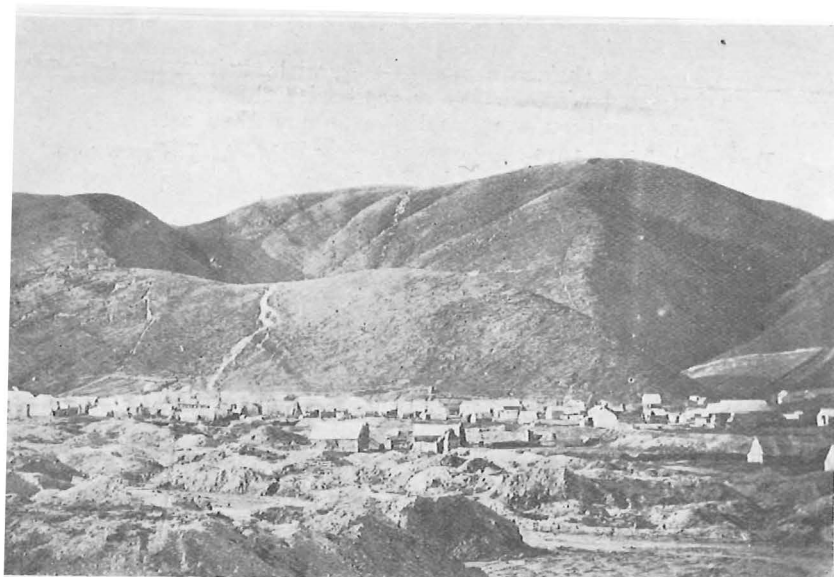
railway in 1877.

(vii) The Store.

The first place of business erected in Gabriel's Gully was McIndoe's store, opened about August 1861. It was situated nearly half way up the Gully and was built in the primitive style of architecture seen on the goldfields - a wooden frame covered with canvas. McIndoe sold out to Archibald McKinlay and Edward Herbert. The former, when selecting a claim at Gabriel's had been suddenly recognised by a friend of his school days in Rothsay, Scotland. The two had entered into partnership and in six weeks had made £900. This was the last mining McKinlay did. Entering the business in 1862, he continued in it till his death in 1910. The "deed of sale" connected with the transaction, probably the first in the district, is preserved to this day and reads as follows:- "Tuapeka, February 4, 1862.

I have sold to Messrs. McKinlay and Herbert the upper store in Gabriel's Gully fitted up by me, for the sum of twenty five pounds sterling. (Signed) James McIndoe."

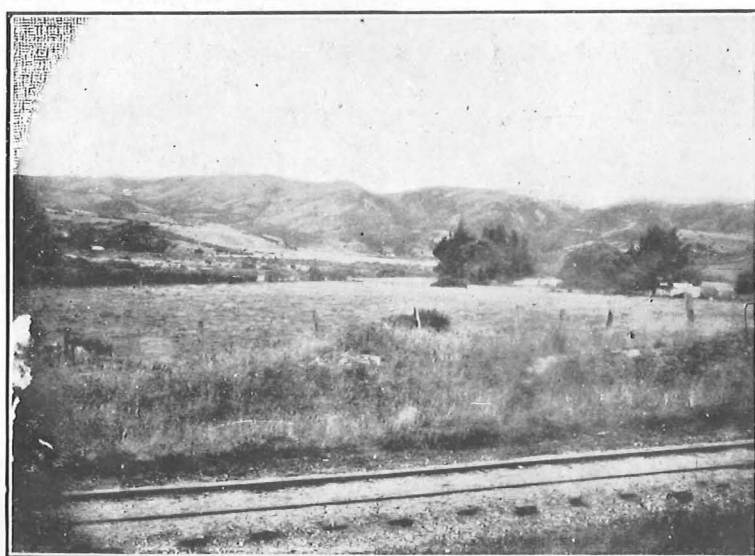
After being for eighteen months in Gabriel's Gully, the seat of business was removed to Lawrence, where the new shop built in the second style of architecture - corrugated iron - was opened in Peel Street, at that time the main business thoroughfare. Places of business were also opened at Weatherston and up country settlements. In 1868 when the Municipality was formed, the store was moved into a brick and wooden building in Ross Place - a more central position - and was carried on under the title of Herbert and Co. Ltd. Here with additions and improvements it still remains. McKinlay bought out the claims of the other partners and today the business belongs to and is conducted by his own sons. Several of the hands employed



WETHERSTONES IN ITS PALMY DAYS. 1862.



WETHERSTONES OF THE PRESENT DAY. 1911



B. WETHERSTONES FLAT VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH. 1918.

have served the Firm for over thirty five years.

(viii) Growth, Prosperity and Decline of
Weatherston.

By November 1861, Weatherston Gully was the centre of the gold mining industry and for a time its fame eclipsed that of Gabriel's Gully. The population had reached five thousand and was fast increasing. A canvas town of mushroom growth seemed to have sprung from out of the ground and become all at once the centre of life and gaiety. The Weatherston of 1861 had its Broadway and its Little Burke Street, its banks and places of business. Saturday was looked upon as the half holiday and early in the afternoon the miners might be seen assembling in crowds for social enjoyment. There were more stores than at Gabriel's many dancing saloons, numerous sideshows and no fewer than fourteen hotels - all of which attractions provided ample channels for carrying away the hard-won gold.

It is noteworthy that when Major Richardson, on his visit to Tuapeka in July, asked the miners if he should license houses for the sale of spirits, they were unanimous in their wish to exclude this business from the district. By September, many traders had been "licensed to sell spirituous liquors" and hotels became conspicuous in every part of the goldfield. In August 1870, the first Total Abstinence meeting was held in the district. Though it received much support, it was not till 1908 that Prohibition was carried and Tuapeka has since remained a No-License district.

In December 1861, Caledonian Sports were inaugurated at

Weatherston. Thousands of diggers attended, taking the keenest interest in the various Competitions. Absolutely fair sport was demanded, and became a noticeable feature in these gatherings of pioneer miners. Prizes in money from £3 to £6 were awarded for throwing the light and the heavy hammer, tossing the caber, running, volting, quoiting, and jumping. These Sports became an annual institution, and are still maintained in Lawrence.

It was a source of numerous complaints that the Government Camp should remain at Gabriel's Gully when by far the largest part of the population was resident at Weatherston. If a licence or a miner's right were wanted or a deposit of gold made, three quarters of the population had to walk over to Gabriel's, either by a severe climb over a precipitous hill or else trudge through three miles of quagmire.

In 1862, when gold was discovered in the Waipori River and its tributaries, a "rush" was made from Weatherston to Waipori. Many hundreds also left at this time for the Dunstan diggings. Then, too, some enterprising miners first tried hill sluicing at the Blue Spur - an extraordinary mound or saddle separating Gabriel's from the adjoining operations in Munro's. This proving successful led to a further exodus of miners from Weatherston. After 1864, when gold was discovered on the West Coast of New Zealand, there were only a few hundred miners left out of the seven thousand who had "rushed" to seek their fortunes in Weatherston Gully.

By 1868, many miners had returned. Application was made for a school which was opened with one hundred and fifty pupils. Deep sinking was tried in this year, but proved only fairly

successful. Gradually the miners drifted away from Weatherston, and today two hydraulic sluicing companies - The Golden Crescent and The Golden Rise alone remain, carrying on mining operations in the district. One old building known as "Noah's Ark" by reason of the variety of new and second-hand goods its owners undertook to supply to the diggers survived the Jubilee of the discovery of gold, but has since fallen to ruin, and, today, except for the brewery, of which the history has yet to be told, there is not a sign of the life which, in the sixties, caused the hills to echo with its merriment.

(ix) The Hospital.

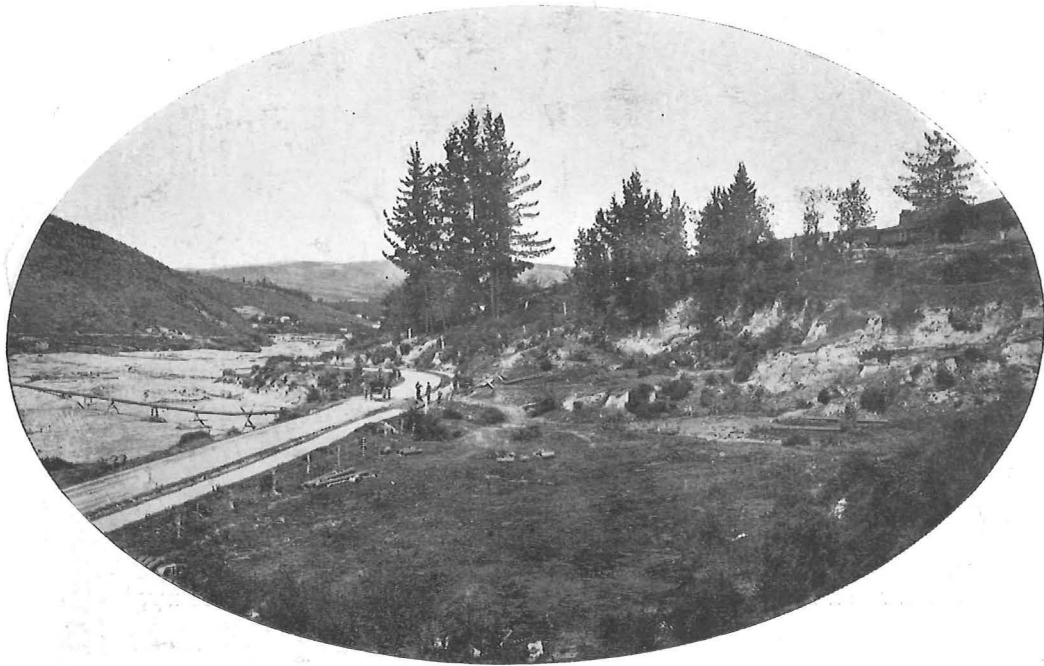
An article in the "Otago Daily Times" of Dec. 28th 1861 showed that proposals for a hospital for Tuapeka were already under consideration. Its need had long been felt. Mining accidents were of almost daily occurrence, and sickness, on account of the severity of the climate and the unavoidable exposure to which the gold miners were subjected, was by no means uncommon. Perhaps the greatest trial was frost-bite. On one occasion two men had to be taken to Dunedin suffering in this way, and at the accommodation house where they stayed at Waitahuna everything liquid except alcohol was frozen.

The Provincial Council promised the sum of £500 for the erection of a hospital, provided that a certain sum were raised by private subscriptions. By January 27th, 1862, the daily papers announced donations totalling £150, and called open air meetings of miners, storekeepers and others to take into consideration the measures to be adopted for forthwith establishing this

much needed institution. It was decided that the hospital should be one hundred and thirty feet long by twenty feet broad and should accommodate forty patients. It was originally intended that it should be situated equi-distant from Tuapeka, Weatherston and Waitahuna; but eventually it was placed about half way between Gabriel's Gully and Weatherston. To show the need for and the interest in the hospital, the offertory in the Episcopal Church, Dunedin, on Sunday, February 15th 1862, was given to this object when the fund benefited to the extent of £20:14: 8.

By April 1st, the building was well on towards completion, and the "Otago Daily Times" of August 2nd. announced that the hospital had at last been opened. Instead of making the opening public through the medium of the press or by some demonstrative, solemnising, notices had been affixed outside one or two hotels and there the publicity ended. Dr. Halley, a descendant of the famous Halley who discovered the comet, was the first resident surgeon. A Matron and an assistant were also appointed. The first patient arrived within a couple of days of the opening. His mates had spent three days in bringing him from Waipori where the accident - a simple fracture "caused by a sudden twist being given to the leg while dancing!" - had taken place. Within three days more there were five patients receiving the care and attention which had been denied to all previous sufferers.

Though it was afterwards found that this first hospital had been built of green timber and won for itself the name of "the refrigerator", it served a useful purpose until a better one came to be built.



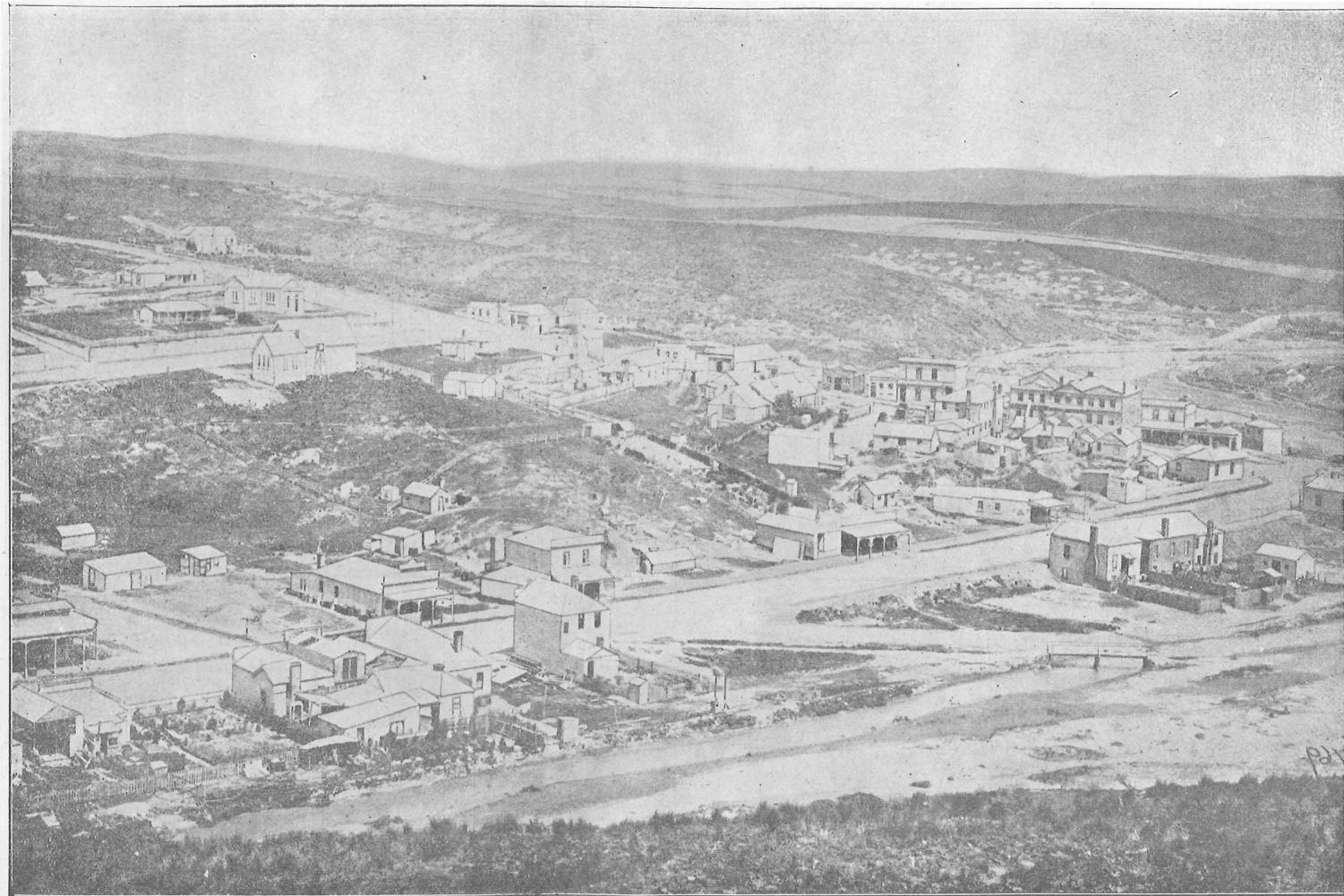
THE SITE OF THE FIRST TOWNSHIP, AND COMMISSIONER'S HILL.
At this spot Dr Stuart preached his first sermon.

1911.



THE SITE OF THE OLD JUNCTION TOWNSHIP.

1921.



VIEW OF EARLY LAWRENCE. 1870.

(x) Town Lands.

As previously stated, the first settlement in Tuapeka took place half way up Gabriel's Gully. This, however, was most difficult of access. Goods for the store were carted to the hill above and sent down in sledges after the inmates had been summoned from the neighbouring tents in case of accidents. It was also found impossible to make a road suitable for the necessary traffic and the mud, especially in winter, was one of the miners' greatest trials.

The next settlement attempted was at the foot of the Gully where the Weatherston Creek joined Gabriel's Gully's creek; hence the township was called The Junction. Here the inhabitants were subjected to floods, so a move was made across the creeks to the hill beyond.

It was here that the first sale of town lands took place on November 5th 1862, in what was named the town of Lawrence, after Sir Henry Lawrence who was at that time enshrined in the hearts of the public on account of his heroic deeds in India. Two days later town sections were opened for sale at Waitahuna, where the name of another Indian hero, Havelock, was given to the town. Havelock did not grow, and is today only a village. That the township has any other name than Waitahuna is a fact unknown to most of its present day inhabitants.

Most of the allotments in the neighbourhood of the settled portion of the township at Lawrence were sold, some of them at the rate of £40 per acre, the upset price being £50. This was very satisfactory showing the high estimate formed of the future of Lawrence.

(xi) Education in Tuapeka.

The history of Education in Tuapeka began in the autumn of 1862, when Miss Denton, daughter of a local storekeeper opened a day school in a tent situated in what is now called Peel Street. She soon left the district and the instruction of the young was neglected for many months, until an old lady, Mrs. Perry, the wife of a storekeeper, took compassion on the "ignoramuses" growing up around her and invited as many as chose to come to her tent, where, without remuneration or fee she imparted occasional instruction to them for many months.

In November 1862, a petition from parents in Tuapeka was forwarded to John Hislop, Secretary of the Education Board, requesting that the district might be declared an Education Distirt under the Ordinance of 1862. Referring long afterwards to the petition, on the occasion of the opening of the new Grammar School in Lawrence, the Secretary said he well remembered the application for the school and how the members of the Board scouted the idea, one asking what a band of wandering roving diggers wanted with a school in Gabriel's Gully. On being presented to the Government, the petition was not granted, principally on the ground of the limited number of "freeholders" living within reach of the proposed school. It is only just, however, to state that the Board was willing to grant £50 per annum towards the payment of salary to a duly qualified master - the school to be ranked as a side school.

In December 1862, a "rush" took place to the Lakes District and education was again left to women who, interested in the children, gathered them together for instruction. By the middle of the

next year, however, a more settled state of affairs existed, and it was decided to open a subscription list to procure funds for a school. The matter was enthusiastically taken up and about £300 was collected, Gabriel'Read's name being among those of the subscribers. A settler offered the use of a section of his land on which to erect a school - the Committee to pay a peppercorn rent during the time the site was required for the school. At the end of the year a corrugated iron building, long known as "The Tin School" was ready for use, and the Provincial Government granted £100 towards the master's salary. On January 1st, 1864, one McIntosh was appointed first master. He resigned in September, and an "Intelligent Digger" - as he was designated by the Education Office - was induced to take temporary charge, until October 20th, when Mr. John Stenhouse, a young teacher just out from Scotland, was appointed. Ten years ago the pioneer teacher retired from this position, after forty five years of untiring and efficient service in the cause of education. More has yet to be said of him for he played no small part in the history of Lawrence.

About this time also was established a school long known as Sproule's Academy, where instruction was given in reading, writing and arithmetic. Especial attention was paid to writing, which was evidently taught as an arm movement, and the beauty of the results obtained remains fresh today in the minds of many of those early scholars.

In the light of the increased attention which at the present day is being paid to education, it is interesting to note that within two years of the discovery of gold the first school on the goldfields had been established and built, and was being maintained

by private enterprise and the voluntary efforts of the gold-field's residents.

(xii) The Camp.

Every pioneer of '61 talks most familiarly of "The Camp", an expression which has a holiday sound to a citizen of today; but one that conveyed a very different meaning to the mind of the digger. "The Camp" stood to him for the whole gamut of Government Buildings. Here might be found the Court House, the Land and Survey Office, the Gaol, the Post Office, the Warden's Office, the Gold Office, and many other offices in connection with Government.

The Postal Accommodation at "The Camp" was described as "a tent, twelve feet by fourteen feet from which letters were doled out through a small opening to a large and expectant crowd outside at the rate of about one in five minutes." X

"The Court was a tent, twelve feet by sixteen feet, so steaming on a hot day from the crowd that thronged its precincts, as frequently to cause people to become ill. The dignity which should hedge about a Court of Justice was entirely lacking and the presiding Magistrate occasionally suffered the indignity of having his papers whirled in his face by some passing gust of wind. The Clerk of the Bench might be seen laying violent hands on depositions that would not remain in their proper places, or else endeavouring by the exercise of considerable ingenuity to find some spot where they might be safe from the streams of water that would pour in on rainy days." X

x "The Otago Witness", April 1862.

Agitation for new buildings in a more central position was kept up for many months, and at last met with success.

CHAPTER IV.

LAWRENCE IN THE MIDDLE AND LATER SIXTIES.

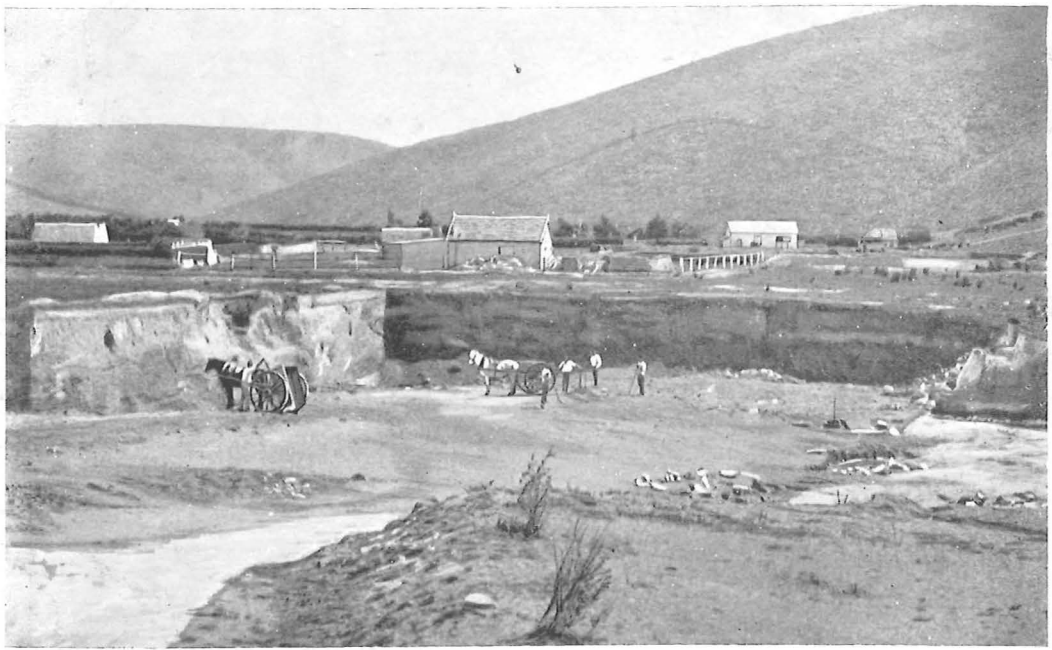
(1) Water Races for Mining Purposes.

On account of its richness, the Tuapeka Goldfield has been designated "The Ballarat^x of Otago". It was one of the richest surface diggings in the world and might aptly be termed "the poor man's diggings" because with the natural supply of water, the cost of getting the gold was comparatively trifling.

Auriferous alluvium was of two classes - the old drift and the more recent alluvial deposits. The second stratum only was treated by the early miners and was called "wash-dirt". To reach the gold it was necessary to dig through soil and clay to a depth of from two to four feet. Here gravel was reached from one to two feet in depth and immediately below on the blue slate rock lay the gold. These deposits had been laid down by water and by water the gold they contained was extracted from them.

As can easily be imagined, it was not long before the surface diggings were worked out and other means had to be found for obtaining gold from the old drifts of greater depth and from the hills. Up till November 1861, the digger always selected his claim as near as possible to running water; but about that date the idea of bringing water to the claim was first conceived. This thought was to prove of immense practical importance to mining, for by utilising the unrivalled supply of water constantly running to waste down the gullies in Tuapeka, the cost of obtaining the gold was

lessened and places such as hillsides, hitherto unworkable, were
ly Aus - gings/ / x Ballarat in Victoria Australia. One of the richest of the



STRIPPING WITH HORSES AND DRAYS, HAVELOCK FLAT, WAITAHUNA. 1862.

made to yield the hidden treasure.

The earliest application for a right to water was made to the Gold Commissioner by James Graham, well known as "California Jem", an enterprising old "forty niner". Knowing little of practical gold mining, the Commissioner thought the request to be that of a madman and put the application aside till February 1862. It was then granted. The race was cut and the water was brought to Munro's side of the Blue Spur. After two or three weeks' sluicing "California Jem" took from Holy Joe's Gully at least one hundred and twenty ounces of gold. This gully owes its name to H. L. Gilbert, who within two or three months of the discovery of gold at Gabriel's Gully struck gold and made £500. His great interest in Christian work led to his nickname of "Holy Joe" and was justified by his afterwards adopting missionary work among seamen at Port Chalmers.

There has been some dispute to the claim of first constructor of a water race for ground sluicing. The claim of "California Jem" was substantiated by John Drummond - the Mining Surveyor of the Tuapeka District in 1862, and he has since been "regarded as the pioneer race-owner and originator of the Blue Spur water-race."^x

The next water-race to give greater impetus to the mining industry was that cut by a company of eight miners called "The Weatherston Water Company", directed by James R. Gascoigne, who had noticed the difficulties under which the miners at Weatherston laboured. They had to pay from five to ten shillings per load to get their "wash dirt" carted to water, for there was then no other way of getting it washed.

x Early Gold Discoveries in Otago. V. Pyke. P. 135.

During the cutting of the race, the Company had to contend with a great deal of opposition. Twice Gascoigne had to address from one thousand to fifteen hundred men in the Golden Age Hotel, who had been called together to obstruct operations. He guaranteed that it would cost them no more than one shilling a load to wash their dirt and they determined to await results. A request to the Goldfields' Warden, Major Croker, for protection for the proposed water race proved fruitless, there being at that time no regulations respecting water races. The race, four and a half miles in length, was cut, the Weatherston Creek high up was tapped the water was carried round the hill, and within three months' time the miners were washing their dirt on the spot, at one shilling a load. Henceforth there was no opposition. The carters departed. A large reservoir, afterwards known as the Phoenix Dam, from the second Company who owned it, was built out of a natural basin which impounded a great volume of water, sufficient to supply the town of Lawrence for many years, besides providing all the miners required. The greatest expense had been the cost of the timber for fluming on account of the long distance over which it had to be brought. Fortunately not much timber was required in this case, and that was purchased at £40 per thousand feet. The price of water fixed by the Company was £5 per week for a sluice head, six days of eight hours, £3 for a tom-head, and £3 for filling a dam each day, an operation done in the dinner hour.

At first, in ground sluicing, the water was allowed to run down over the alluvium operated upon, and the miners broke up the material with picks; but soon canvas hose came to be used and the water could then be directed upon any part of the claim or

mass of dirt at the miner's will. Canvas, however, soon rotted, and at best stood but little pressure - one hundred feet was the maximum - and for the disintegration of many of the deposits that pressure was inadequate. Several years later iron piping took the place of the canvas hose.

(ii) Quartz Mining.

The first quartz reef on the Tuapeka goldfield was discovered at Waipori by a party of Victorian miners - all Shetland men - who saw the reef projecting above the surface and showing gold. At first they broke the stone down with picks and washed it in a cradle, obtaining in this way seven ounces of gold for two weeks' work. Later a Company was formed called the O.P.Q. (Otago Pioneer Quartz Company) which worked the reef for many years with varying success. In 1871, sixty-six ounces of gold were recovered from one hundred and twenty five tons of stone crushed in nine days. In 1873, operations were suspended, as the stone proved too poor to pay for raising and crushing. Steam and water power were applied in turn; but though the returns have at times been good, the reef has not yet been properly developed.

Reefs have also been discovered at Blue Spur and Weatherston and that they exist in large numbers in the neighbourhood of Lawrence is certain, but that there are any payable ones has yet to be proved.

"Quartz mining is one branch of mining which cannot possibly be carried on by simple, inexpensive means. The very nature of the occurrence of reefs and the distribution of the gold throughout the

mass of quartz renders it imperative that scientific methods of exploitation and treatment should be employed in order to obtain a high percentage of extraction of the value.

"Now in the early days the necessary capital to equip and develop the mines was not available and the methods of treating the quartz were crude. The result was that work could only be carried to a certain stage and no further. In justice to the pioneers of the industry it must be acknowledged that the scientific methods now employed in mining were then unknown, while the lack of means of transport throughout the country was a lion in the path of many a venture. Skilled labour was scarce and costly. These were a few of the difficulties against which the pioneers of the industry had to contend." x

(iii) The Tuapeka Brewery.

Situated about three miles from Lawrence at the foot of the Weatherston Hills by which it is enclosed on three sides, is the Tuapeka Brewery. It is unique in its isolation, not because it is in the centre of a Prohibition District, but because it depends for its existence to a very large extent on an unfailing supply of water obtained from the hills behind it. This water is almost entirely free from vegetable matter, to which fact the fine quality and flavour of the local beer are believed to be largely due. Thus though almost every other mark of civilisation has departed from the

x "The Mineral Resources of New Zealand". First Prize Essay. P.24
By Robert McIntosh, Assistant Inspector of Mines,
1906.

once populous town of Weatherston, the brewery still remains.

Beer was first made at Weatherston on the premises of H. Coverlid, who owned a shop there, originally a shaving saloon, in 1863. The manufacture of beer proving eminently successful, Coverlid in 1868 built the first brewery to which he gave the name of "The Black Horse" and continued in the business till 1870 when he sold out to Bastings and Kofoed. The former at the time was the Member in the Provincial Council for Waikaia, and the latter a brewer from Denmark.

About the middle seventies, Bastings sold his share to Wm. Hayes. Eventually Hayes bought out Kofoed and in turn disposed of the property to H. C. Clayton, who with McNab carried on the manufacture of beer until it was taken over by its present owners, Simpson and Hart, in 1884.

Benjamin Hart was of Jewish descent and a shrewd business man. The building was extended and renovated and an up-to-date plant installed. It also received its present title, B. Hart's sons have since taken their father's shares in the business, which is known from Canterbury to the Bluff. They have moreover by their generosity, as will be related hereafter, won for themselves the name of public benefactors. Mr. J. K. Simpson is still the able brewer whose skill in this direction contributes in no small degree towards the success of the industry and the disposal of the output.

(iv) Other Forms of Progress.

In 1862, George Lynn discovered a bed of coal, or as it is termed "lignite" in the west part of Lawrence, now known as Coal Pit Flat. He and his partners, after considerable delay, obtained permission to work the seam and by 1868 extensive mining operations were in progress.

As bush in Tuapeka was found only at the tops of the gullies wood was always scarce and it was hoped that the coal mine would be a great acquisition in the district. This expectation has not been fulfilled, for though the cost at the pit was only 10/6 per ton, the coal was used only when nothing else could be obtained. It was exceptionally slow in burning, emitting at the same time a suffocating sulphurous odour and left a thick deposit of soot on grates and chimneys. For many years it was the only fuel obtainable, and served a useful purpose in spite of its drawbacks.

In 1877 a steam engine was erected at the Coal Pit. It was fired with slack for which there was no market. As the shaft was a double one and the cages held about half a ton of coal, a large quantity amounting to about ten tons was raised per day. The leases held about fifteen acres and as barely three acres had been worked the mine was only in its infancy. As greater depths were reached the coal improved in quality; but in 1878, at a depth of one hundred and sixty feet the shaft collapsed causing the owners a loss of over £400.

Fireclay of a very superior quality was found to underlie the coal. This clay was very suitable for pottery, brick and tile making. In 1868 a brick kiln was built by George Walker

who supplied bricks at £4 per thousand. The present day cost is £4:5:0 per thousand. It was prophesied that Lawrence in the future would be built entirely of brick; but that era has not yet arrived. In 1877 a company was formed for carrying on the industry and in the following year a contract was made to supply the Kensington Tile-works with twenty four tons of clay weekly for twelve months. Owing, however, to the cost of freight and no great demand for clay, the undertaking was not sufficiently lucrative to warrant its continuance and the company dissolved.

The lack of timber on the goldfields has been met by the erection of saw mills in outlying bush areas. In 1865 a timber mill was erected at Tapanui by one Paterson, the founder of the industry. The first two loads of sawn timber were brought to Lawrence by bullock. The cost at the mill was twenty shillings per hundred superficial feet, with cartage extra.

A sawmilling plant of American manufacture, with a sixty horse power engine was set up, also at Tapanui Bush by McKinlay - one of the partners in the Store - and employed between thirty and forty men. Doors and furnishings for buildings were made and sent to Lawrence from this mill for fourteen years until the opening of the railway enabled these requisites to be obtained more cheaply from elsewhere. Another saw mill which helped to supply Tuapeka with timber was situated at Tuapeka Mouth. All these mills were of the greatest service to the settlers in the early days.

In 1869, one Lawson undertook to set up a flour mill at Evans' Flat, four miles northwest of Lawrence. In anticipation of its erection the farmers in the Tuapeka district grew larger and larger quantities of wheat, but still there was no mill. After

eighteen months' delay the turbine water wheel which had been ordered from England arrived. It was a massive wheel of twenty horse power, capable of driving not only the flour mill but also a flax-mill which was erected later, and still survives though the flour mill has gone.

A proposal was made in July 1876 to start a flour mill in Lawrence. The Tuapeka Flour Milling Company was formed, a mill erected on a site near the old Junction where a sufficient force of water was available for turning the wheel, and milling operations began. The speculation proved a failure. In May 1886 the mill was put up for auction and sold to D. Christie for £1,000. As the initial cost had been £2,000 the share-holders lost one half of their investments.

The mill is built of brick and stands four storeys high. It is capable of producing daily three tons of flour and five of oatmeal. Till 1898 it was known as a stone mill; but rollers were then installed and later steam was substituted for water in driving the machinery.

(v) The Tuapeka Athenæum and Mining Institute.

It is convenient at this point in the history of Lawrence to give an account of another institution which is a legacy from a Progress Committee inaugurated in Weatherston.

The first recorded meeting of this Committee was held in Walsh's Camp Hotel in Lawrence on June 20th 1865. Here it was that the institution received its present name. It was also decided to take immediate steps to procure funds for a library. J.C.Brown, M.H.R.

was elected the first President and two members of that first committee are still living - Mr. J. C. Arbuckle, now resident in Dunedin, and Mr. John Stenhouse, the present Treasurer of the institution .

A lecture was given by Professor Griffen, the proceeds of which amounting to £12:17:0 were forwarded to the Board of Education. By Section 33 of the Education Ordinance 1856, the Education Board was empowered, out of a fund especially set aside for the purpose by the Provincial Council, to subsidise pound for pound any sum of money collected by public subscription for a library in an Educational District. The Board had also the right to see that provision was made for the safe custody of the books and for their use by the public. The word "books" in the Ordinance included works of Art, scientific apparatus and specimens of natural history, while the word "libraries" included Reading Rooms, Schools of Art and Museums.

The first library in Tuapeka was housed on a shelf in the Tin School, the teacher acting as librarian. The annual subscription was fixed at a guinea. In a few months the library was transferred to Matthew Hay's Office in Peel Street, as being more central. In 1867 a reading room was rented from the proprietor of the Camp Hotel.

Various means were next taken by the Committee to augment the funds. Lectures in those days were apparently the most popular form of entertainment, though on one occasion at least, a Ball was held. In October 1867, the Committee wrote to the Provincial Council asking for a grant of £300 towards erecting an Athenaeum, enclosing plans of the building they proposed to erect. They received at the end of the year a grant of £150 which was increased in February 1868 to £250.

Two different sites had been set aside for an Athenaeum by

the Provincial Council; but as neither of these satisfied the Committee, the present site was granted and the other two were added as endowments.

It was largely through the instrumentality of J. C. Brown, the worthy representative of Tuapeka in the General Assembly for over thirty years, that the Athenaeum and Mining Institute received such generous treatment by the Government, and it was not the only institution that benefited by this agency in a similar manner.

The new Athenaeum, built of brick with cement facings, consisted of two rooms, a library and a reading room that was sufficiently large to be used as a Public Hall. It cost in all £533. The opening took place in October 1868 and was celebrated by a grand Ball.

The following year the Committee had some difficulty in meeting its financial obligations and the Hall was let for various purposes. In it the Lawrence Brass Band held its practices. Here, too, the Forresters' Lodge and the Mutual Improvement Society held their respective meetings. On Sundays it was frequently required for Church service, and when the scholars became too numerous to be accommodated in the day-school, the overflow had lessons in the Athenaeum Hall. In this year the Committee undertook the supply of books to the patients in the Tuapeka Hospital at a charge of £5 per annum. By letting a portion of the sections forming the endowment on a ninety years' lease, a further income of £100 was obtained and the Committee was relieved from financial anxiety.

With the erection of a Town Hall in 1875, the Athenaeum Hall was no longer needed as such, and alterations were made which included the dividing of the Hall into Magazine and Reading rooms, and the

BOROUGH OF LAWRENCE



PETER ROBERTSON



GEO. WALKER



HORACE BASTINGS
MAYOR



WM. TOLCHER

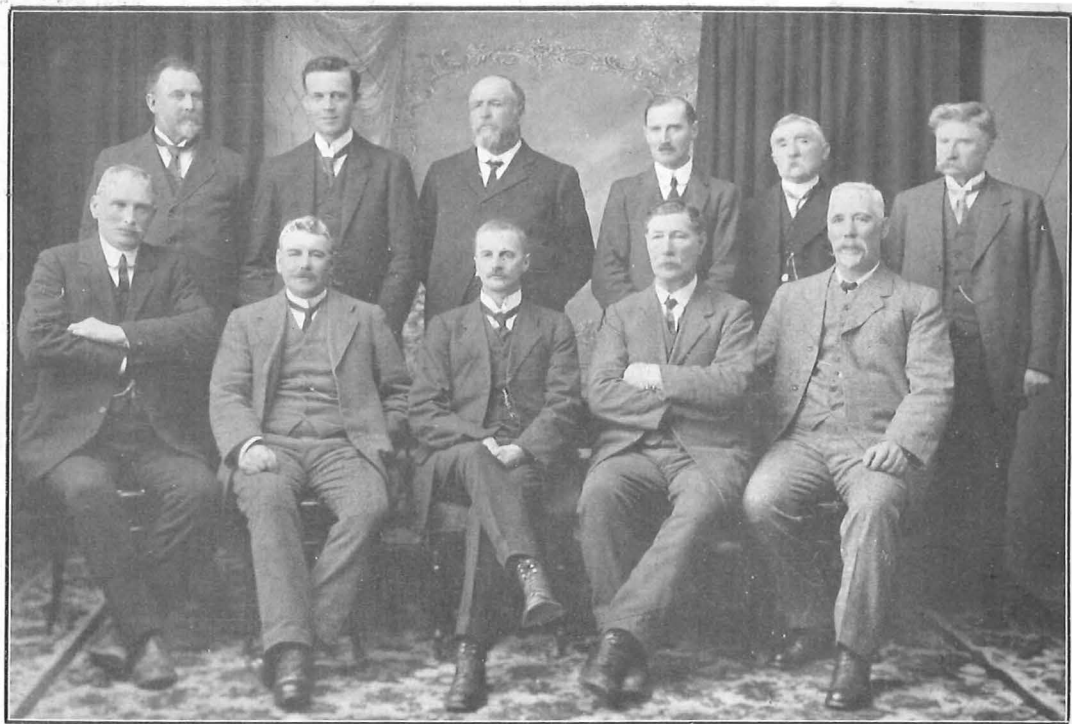


JOHN MCCOLL

MAYOR & COUNCILLORS
1866.



The Borough Seal.



MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS, 1916.

Front Row (*Sitting*), left to right.—D. MUNRO, B. W. WINN, J. B. MCKINLAY (*Mayor*), H. H. LEARY, D. I. CHRISTIE.
 Back Row.—T. PILLING (*Town Clerk*); *Councillors* J. B. THOMPSON, JNO. EDIE, JNR., ALEX. ARTHUR, D. FINLAYSON,
 J. K. SIMPSON.

extension of the library to provide more shelves for the five thousand books which had gradually been acquired. This is the present day arrangement of the building.

(vi) Lawrence Proclaimed a Municipality.

In the early days it was the custom to hold open air meetings and form Progress Leagues and other committees for carrying on public business.

On June 23rd 1866, a public meeting was held to consider the advisability of creating Lawrence a Municipality. Strange to say, the matter was opposed by one section of the community on the ground that the object of the Municipal Act was to free Dunedin from its liabilities. The majority, however, were strongly in favour of the proposal, and a petition was prepared with the result that on July 20th 1866, Lawrence was declared a municipality - the ninth under the Otago Ordinance. The first municipal council election caused great excitement. The borough consisted of six hundred and forty acres, and was at first divided into two wards - east and west - each having to elect two councillors. Horace Bastings was the first Mayor and the four councillors elected were McColl, Tolcher, Walker and Peter Robertson. They held the first Council Meeting on August 4th, 1866, and by the end of the year wonderful strides had been made in the development of the Borough. The formation of streets was begun, plans and specifications for the construction of a storm channel to prevent the town suffering future damage by floods were called for, and a tender accepted. A premium of £5 was offered for the best and most economical method of supplying water to the town, the only supply at this

period being rain water collected by means of tanks. George Murray's tender of £1,700 was accepted and arrangements which lasted for twenty years were made with the Phoenix Water Race Co. Ltd. for the supply of water.

In laying out the municipality, provision was made for a number of reserves, the rentals from which helped to swell the revenue of the Borough and further its interests. The endowment consisted of almost a thousand acres at Tuapeka West, which brought in a yearly income of about £90. There was a reserve of four acres for a Recreation Ground, another of forty acres for a Domain and ten acres for a Cemetery.

(vii) The s. s. "Tuapeka".

After the "rush" to the diggings, it was considered that a lucrative trade might be established between the Tuapeka Goldfield and Port Molyneux by steamer communication on the river. It was hoped also to prove a quicker and a more economical way of obtaining stores than by waggon.

About 1863, Captain Murray agreed with the Provincial Government to put a steamer on the river for a subsidy of £1,400 a year. The s. s. "Tuapeka" was built and launched at Port Chalmers for the special work and eventually reached the Molyneux River. It was intended to send goods by sea to the Molyneux, tranship them to the "Tuapeka" by which they would be conveyed to Tuapeka Mouth, - where the Tuapeka river joins the Molyneux - and be carted from thence to the Goldfield.

The "Tuapeka" performed her share in the scheme and the goods were safely landed at Tuapeka Mouth; but the hopes of an inland trade

were not realised, the distance between the Goldfield and the river being too great.

(viii) The Press.

The origin of the Press in Tuapeka is shrouded in the mists of oblivion. It is certain, however, that the first newspaper printed in Lawrence was "The Tuapeka Recorder", and, that it was in circulation in March 1865 is known, from the fact that the "Otago Witness" of that month reports on "a small pamphlet by John R. Robb, M.A., editor of "The Tuapeka Recorder".

In 1866, James Matthews bought out the "Tuapeka Recorder" from George Bailey, the last editor of that paper. Matthews was afterwards joined by George Fenwick, now Sir George Fenwick, ~~Business~~^{ing Director} Manager of the "Otago Daily Times and Witness" Company in Dunedin. The partners successfully carried on the paper under the title of "The Tuapeka Press" until an opposition paper was issued by Ferguson, Burns and Ludford in February 1868. The following account from Ferguson's pen, twenty three years later, of the circumstances under which the paper was produced will prove interesting as indicative of the perseverance and determination of the proprietors.

"As board and lodging would have been a serious handicap to a firm that had absolutely no capital, we converted a corner of the office into a kitchen, and with the aid of a stove, the apprentice managed to cook all we required. At night the divisions between the printing frames were used as dormitories. My bunk was under the counter. Burns, Ludford and the apprentice each occupied a division or alley as we called them and a

turn over found accommodation outside. Our mattresses at first consisted of copies of "The Bruce Independent", loads of which came up with the plant from Milton - the new name for Tokomairiro township - as packing, but with plenty of blankets we managed to make ourselves comfortable.

"The issue of the first number of our paper was a great event in our history, and was looked for by our friends with some apprehension and with no little anxiety by ourselves. Our first issue, I think, consisted of five hundred copies and our first efforts were well received. The business men of the town, almost without exception, were represented in the advertising columns. The casual advertisements, at first few, made a rapid growth.

"The distribution of a newspaper in those days was a serious matter, the only means being either by foot or on horseback. For this purpose we bought a couple of horses long known in the district as Moses and Aaron. Many a journey they made with the boys and their swags of papers. Even in the winter season when the tracks were difficult to follow owing to snowdrifts, the journeys were repeatedly accomplished to time as we considered punctuality of delivery one of the essentials of success." ^x

"The Tuapeka Times" continued to increase in popularity and circulation to such an extent that within a year the owners of the opposition paper were eager to buy out the new comers. The proprietors of "The Times", however, offered a larger sum for the whole of the interests in "The Tuapeka Press", and the owners, realising they could not exceed the offer and that there was not

x "The Tuapeka Times", February 4th, 1905.

the business for two papers, reluctantly sold out. By the time their last issue was ready for the press on October 31st 1869, their first edition of "The Cromwell Argus" was being prepared. This was printed before they left Lawrence and distributed by one of the proprietors while the other superintended the removal to Cromwell, also a gold-mining town where the institution of the press received a warm welcome and brought successful results to the promoters.

In 1884, Ferguson and Burns - Ludford had relinquished his share previously - sold out to Pilling Bros., who carried on "The Tuapeka Times" until in 1896 it was formed into a Company under the management of its present editor, Mr. John Norrie.

"The Tuapeka Times" was originally a weekly paper and cost sixpence a copy. In 1873 it was issued bi-weekly and by 1880 was reduced to threepence per copy. In the nineties the cost was lowered to a penny, but during the war of 1914-1918 the cost of production, like that of all other papers in the Dominion, rose, and with it the price of the paper was raised to one penny halfpenny per copy.

(iv) History of Ecclesiastical Organisations on the Tuapeka Goldfield.

In a province that has been founded on religious principles, or at least to advance the interests of ecclesiastical organisation, it is interesting to note the development of that organisation, especially so in districts far distant from the chief town.

In 1864, as the result of a Soiree on an extensive scale, £50 was raised by the Presbyterians and a wooden building replaced the canvas tent for public worship. A glebe of about forty acres

was purchased for £160, and in the following year three town sections adjoining the glebe were secured. On this site a manse was built of brick, at a cost of £610, and considerable improvements were made to the Church costing £160. Dr. Copeland, a distinguished alumnus of Scottish and German Universities, was inducted to the pastoral charge of Tuapeka. With the view of going to the China Mission Field, Dr. Copeland had graduated in Medicine and had legal standing as a qualified practitioner. As both doctor and minister he was greatly beloved and he exercised a wonderful influence for good on the community in which he dwelt.

It is interesting to notice as illustrative of the breadth of religious views in the early days, that his managing committee at first consisted of six Episcopalians, two Congregationalists and four Presbyterians.

Dr. Copeland, besides inaugurating at his own expense a church magazine entitled "The Evangelist", which later became merged in "The Presbyterian" - the predecessor of the well known official organ of the Presbyterian Church today, "The Outlook", worked for many years on behalf of the Bible-in-Schools Movement. In 1871 he accepted a call to North Dunedin.

The Presbyterian Church which was the first one to be built in the district, was, in 1886, converted into the Sunday School and the present day handsome brick church costing £1,200 was opened for worship. On September 30th 1914, the members of the Presbyterian Church duly celebrated the Jubilee of the opening of their first church in Lawrence, and a comprehensive pamphlet containing the whole history of the church and its institutions was published. The parish in the early days extended as far as Clyde in Central



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY, LAWRENCE. 1920.

Otago and the minister of the Lawrence Church assisted greatly in the extension of the Church services throughout a wide area.

Although not previously mentioned, the Congregationalists in 1862 conducted services in a tent in Peel Street. At that time they proved a large section of the community and in 1873 built a fine wooden church in Whitehaven Street. They gradually decreased in numbers owing to departures from the district, until it was found necessary to close the church. The building was let to the Salvation Army while their new Barracks in Ross Place--a more central position--were being completed. Then it was sold and removed.

The Salvation Army came about 1886 and after doing a good work in the town and district, found no further need for their services and departed early in 1920.

From their canvas chapel of 1861 the Roman Catholics had transferred their place of worship to a corrugated iron building lent to Father Moreau through the courtesy of Sir John Branigan, Commissioner of Police. On May 23rd 1869, a new church, built in Gothic style was opened by Father Larkin, the priest who succeeded Father Moreau. In the same year chapels were also opened at Roxburgh, Waipori, Waitahuna and Milton.

After serving for many years both as church and school the wooden building was reserved for educational purposes and in 1892 the New Church--St Patrick's--was opened. It is built on a commanding site opposite the old church and is a fine Gothic edifice in brick and Oamaru stone; the belfry being entirely of stone. The church accommodates six hundred worshippers and is by far the



Anglican Belfry, Church, and Sunday School. 1915.

largest church in Lawrence. A handsome choir gallery was placed over the main entrance and a beautiful pipe organ is a noticeable feature of the interior.

The Presbytery, a two storey brick building adjoins the church and St Gabriel's Convent, opened in February 1893, the home of the Dominican nuns who teach in the school is a short distance away.

The new church was acquired mainly through the efforts of Dean O'Leary who, in 1898, celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of his ordination. As a mark of the respect in which he was held he was presented by his fellow clergy and the people of the whole diocese with £250, the cost of a trip to Ireland--a travelling rug, a carved inlaid table and chair and a set of beautifully worked Altar Vestments. He returned from his trip, was appointed Monseigneur and settled again to his work in Lawrence. He died in 1916 after thirty years of faithful ministry and was mourned by the whole community.

In July 1865, the Wesleyans, or Methodists opened in Colonsay Street in a line with the Presbyterian church, the first church in Lawrence to be built of brick. As the ground was later purchased by the Roman Catholics, the church was pulled down and a wooden one erected about 1874 in a sunnier spot and adjoining the parsonage previously built at the foot of Colonsay Street.

On December 17th 1866, the Anglican community of Lawrence decided the time had come for the establishment of a Church of England. A great bazaar to achieve this object was for three days held in May 1868 and brought in the sum of £207. As the public school was required for the bazaar the children were granted a week's holiday--a proceeding

that would scandalise the Board or the Department of Education nowadays.

In 1868, the Revd. M. H. Martin M.A. was appointed Vicar at a salary of £300 a year with a house free. He made a special appeal in a sermon at St. Paul's, Dunedin, in aid of the Lawrence Church and its funds benefited by £100.

A third means of raising money--very commonly employed on the goldfields--was by Public Lectures. Among those given was one by Major Richardson, his subject being "An Illustration of Practical Colonisation". In the course of his address the Major said he had been agreeably surprised by the progress in the district since his first visit in 1861. He told how he had then tried his hand at washing for gold and secured lots of gravel but no gold. One of the greatest difficulties of the miners in those days, was the transport of their gold and nothing would satisfy them but that he should undertake the care of the first escort. This he did mounted on a cart-horse.

In 1865 the present Vicarage beautifully situated on the top of a hill in Colonsay Street was built at a cost of £645. In May 1870, the Revd. C. P. Beaumont became Vicar and that year Holy Trinity Church was built on the flats below the Vicarage, facing Whitehaven Street. It was a neat wooden church but is now almost completely riddled by the borer--an insect that bores through certain kinds of woods in every direction but notably white-pine of which unfortunately the church was built.

A brick Sunday School, at the present time picturesquely covered with creeping ivy, was added in 1882, mainly through the efforts of John Thompson, the first Superintendent of Holy Trinity Sunday School.

In 1900, after thirty years of faithful labour, Archdeacon Beaumont retired, solely because he believed a change of minister would be in the best interests of the parish. He was succeeded by Archdeacon Richards, now Bishop of Dunedin.

The church has some very handsome furniture. A pulpit and eagle lectern, both in oak, were given in memory of the late Vicar, Archdeacon Beaumont. The reading desk, also in oak, was a tribute from the parishioners to the memory of Edward Herbert who bequeathed £1,000, to the parish as a perpetual endowment. The handsome pipe organ was also his gift. The gold cross was presented by Archdeacon Richards in memory of his two sons who were killed in the Great War, 1914-1918.

The grounds, once bare, have been made beautiful by the forethought of the late Archdeacon Beaumont, who planted Vicarage and Church sections alike with a large variety of English trees, which add in no small degree to the beauty and picturesque appearance of the town.

The activity of a strong Ladies' Guild has helped largely in the support of the church, and among its gifts are the bell, the belfrey and the acetylene gas.

Anglican churches were opened at Waipori, 1903, Waitahuna 1898, Beaumont 1918. Services are also held at Greenfield. In 1917, a motor car was provided by the parishioners to enable the Vicar the more easily to minister to the needs of the outlying parts of the Parish.

Although the history of each religious sect has been separately sketched, in reality there is a wonderful unity among all the churches. Each sect is in turn supported in its concerts, bazaars and various other activities, by the members of every other sect. Here is seen religious toleration in perhaps its most highly developed form.

"Each helping on the other's best,

And blessing each as well as blest."

CHAPTER V.

THE COMING OF THE RAILWAY.

(1) A retrospect and a Prospect.

A decade of pioneering had passed and the new era that was beginning for the colony in general was bringing with it a new order of things for Tuapeka. The old order had been one of intense enthusiasm. Fortunes had been quickly made and as quickly lost. The mining population was ever in a state of flux. Anthony Trollope who toured New Zealand in 1872, wrote, "We journeyed on from one goldfield town to another finding the people always in a state of prosperity. Ordinary labour throughout the country receives five or six shillings a day or four shillings with rations. The little towns seemed to do well, all having banks and numerous hotels. The life was rough and though things were ugly to European eyes, they were neither poor nor squalid."

The year 1870 brought with it the adoption of "the public works and immigration policy of Sir Julius Vogel. It was proposed to borrow huge sums on the British money market and expend them in building railways, harbours, roads, bridges, and telegraph lines and in paying the passages of immigrants from the Old Country. This policy was developed systematically and resulted in an

* "Australia and New Zealand" P. 335, Vol. II.

enormous increase of settlement and prosperity."^x

With the merging of the old Provincial Council into a general Government in 1875-6, a system of local Government by county councils, road boards, borough and town councils was instituted-- a system that brought great local changes throughout the colony.

Although for many years still progress in the development of the town and district of Tuapeka is to be noticed, yet a steady decrease in population had already begun--the influence of which was perceived more and more as the years passed. Records show that in 1864, there were fifteen thousand, seven hundred men on the diggings, of whom ten thousand were actually diggers. In 1875 the total population of Tuapeka was about five thousand and in 1917 the number of men engaged in gold mining in this district was one hundred and twenty one.

In 1862 there was recorded a marked falling off in the amount brought of gold/down by the Escort. This may be explained to some extent by the unprecedented severity of the winter to which the Australian miners were not acclimatised. Many of them returned home, intending to return in the Spring. Major Richardson caused true reports of the exact state of affairs in New Zealand to be circulated in Australia and hasty immigration from that colony was to a large extent arrested. In this year also, numerous discoveries of alluvial gold deposits in Central Otago caused considerable migration among miners and the discoveries of gold on the West Coast of New Zealand in 1864 were largely responsible for the decrease in that year of miners on the Otago Goldfields.

x- "The English as a Colonising Nation." Dr Hight. P.270.

(ii) The Progress League.

Towards the middle seventies it was fully realised by the inhabitants that three projects were absolutely essential to make Tuapeka prosperous, and that these could be inaugurated only by an earnest and continued agitation. The first was a great water system for the goldfields by which double the population could be easily employed. The second was a much more liberal land system by which settlers would be freed from the excessive rent under which they groaned, and be enabled by deferred payments or otherwise to become the proprietors of their respective holdings. A railway connecting Lawrence with Dunedin was the third necessity. It was pointed out that railway connexion would cheapen produce, increase the population by encouraging settlements, make Lawrence a central depot, double the value of property and unite the people.

As a result of the public meeting called in Lawrence a strong and influential committee known as "The Tuapeka Railway and Water Supply Progress Committee" was appointed to decide what action should be taken regarding these matters.

(iii) The Water System.

As the superficial alluvial deposits of gold were being worked out it was necessary to reach greater depths where the older deposits lay or else to work hillsides. Both these operations required greater water power than had yet been used. As already explained the plan of leading water by means of water races on to hillsides and to auriferous ground distant from water had already been put into execution. The cutting of races and the construction of dams for conserving the surplus water cost large sums of money and yet, if the population on the gold field was to be augmented or even maintained, the means for getting the gold had to be available.

In the General Government finance proposals of the early seventies, £300,000 had been set aside for a water supply for the goldfields and it was thought that a fair proportion of that amount should be laid out in Tuapeka.

Subsidies were made to private companies constructing water races for mining purposes and in this way five different races were cut from the Waipori River and one from the Beaumont, bringing water to Blue Spur, Gabriel's Gully and Weatherston.

The combined length of these races was about one hundred and fifty miles. Waitahuna was served by these races--one from the Meggett Burn, a tributary of the Waipori, and two from branches of the Tokomairiro. One race cut by Norwegians took from four to five years to complete.

At the present day this supply of water is wholly inadequate for the treatment of the deposit. Practically all the available supply has been obtained, and that, it is said, is constantly decreasing in volume owing to the small falls of snow in the last few winters. Consequently the problem of securing an efficient water supply is still unsolved for the miners of Tuapeka.

(iv) Land Settlement.

In October 1868, "The Tuapeka Land League" was formed, having for its object the opening up for general purposes of settlement the waste lands in the district.

Writing in 1868, Vincent Pyke remarks, "Further inland the gold-bearing hills and valleys of Tuapeka are surrounded and intersected by hundreds of smiling farms." * This statement appears to make the formation of a Land League for the purpose above mentioned seem superfluous. If, however, a printer's error has occurred, as seems probable, and "Hundreds" should be written with a capital letter, the statement partly explains one of the causes of the formation of the Land League by the settlers. Agricultural lands were parcelled out in blocks containing from thirty to one hundred and twenty square miles. These were called Blocks or Hundreds and the purchaser of a Hundred was entitled to run cattle on the unsold land around. Naturally enough, the large runholders did not want the waste lands opened up for settlement. A certain amount of land not reserved by the Government on the questionable

* Pyke: "The Province of Otago in New Zealand." P. 17.

ground that it was auriferous was also in the hands of the large runholders and they were supreme in the Provincial Government.

Much might be said for both parties in the contest over the opening up of the land. The pioneer runholders had many difficulties to contend against. In the first place there was the difficulty of procuring flocks and herds, and secondly the task of getting them to the runs was no easy matter. Wild dogs, and wild pigs in the early days had caused the runholders great losses. Many of the animals, especially sheep, had died from eating Tutu. Scab had been introduced by the sheep from Australia and Pleura had carried off hundreds of the cattle. The runholders were engaged in a far more necessary industry than the gold-miners. As in the case of many of the gold-miners so many of the runholders had made fortunes but many had not. The gold-miner had a right to land and it was to the interest of the country that he should be encouraged to settle on the land. In 1864, when gold digging became a less profitable industry, many of the miners required the aid of pastoral occupations to enable them to eke out a living. Others with capital wanted to settle on the land. Hence there arose much agitation for the opening up of land for settlement. In Lawrence the movement under the able leadership of Thomas Darton, who was most keenly alive to the rights of the miners, and the interests of the district, was furthered by continual agitation for twenty one years. During this time much progress was made in the acquisition of land for settlement. Two Blocks in Tuapeka West were being surveyed for settlement when an order was passed by the

Government that the land was to be relet for pastoral purposes. Violent opposition by the Land League of Tuapeka caused the surveyor to come out and it was again ordered to be surveyed for settlement purposes. His successor however, countermanded the order and the land, was relet for a period of years for pastoral purposes. Such were some of the circumstances with which the land agitators had to struggle. Eventually, however, they won their cause. The two Blocks in Tuapeka West were at last thrown open for settlement and later the whole of Tuapeka West. Shortly afterwards Tuapeka East was also conceded. Run 106 in Waitahuna West was put up for absolute sale, but there was no purchaser. It was, therefore, surveyed and let on deferred payment or agricultural lease, and a large part became freehold. As time went on, more and more land was opened for closer settlement.

(V) The Railway.

So great was the enthusiasm over the Railway scheme that a subscription list opened by the Mayor, Horace Bastings, with twenty guineas gave the Committee very great encouragement. A petition was forwarded to the Provincial Government which heartily approved of the proposed movement and promised to make a recognisance survey of the line. The co-operation of the Mayors and councillors of the various up-country municipalities was asked for and instantly given. Great interest in the scheme was also assured in the outlying districts.

In September 1870, a strong deputation supported by J .C. Brown

M.H.R. waited upon the Colonial Treasurer with the view to inducing him to include the Tuapeka line in the Bill before Parliament that session. The deputation was unsuccessful and the matter was "held up" for a year in order that plans and estimates might be submitted to Parliament at the next Session.

The preliminary survey was soon made and plans prepared. A select committee of the Provincial Council was appointed to obtain evidence and report upon the paying capabilities of such a Railway. The Committee prepared an exhaustive report, which in every way did it credit and forwarded it to the Government.

In November 1871, J.C. Brown in a speech in the Assembly quoted some of the most convincing statistics in favour of the proposed railway and succeeded in bringing the construction of the line under "The First Schedule" of Public Works.

Naturally after so much success had been assured agitation began to slacken. About the middle of 1872, however, it was aroused in all its fervour by a spurious agitation brought forward by the run-holding interest who endeavoured to show that a line from Waipahi to Moa Flat would be a much more profitable one than that from Tokomairiro, to Lawrence. Not content with advocating the strength of that line on its merits they made assertions regardless of truth in disparagement of the Tuapeka line. Delegates from Lawrence were preparing to go to the Capital when a telegram from J. C. Brown assured them that the Tuapeka line was to be commenced during the summer.

True to its promise the Government had the surveys completed by the time mentioned. Tenders were then called and the contracts let

in May 1873 to be finished in 1875.

The branch leaves the Main South line at Clarksville, thirty seven and a quarter miles from Dunedin and is twenty two miles long. It passes through Glenore to Manuka Creek. Here a tunnel four hundred and eighty yards long and costing £12,000 had to be cut. The main road at this point passes through the Manuka Gorge and emerges at Mount Stuart. Both road and line are made picturesque for at least a quarter of a mile by the English trees which surround the settlement and form an avenue for road and railway. Before reaching Round Hill the line passes through another tunnel. Though only two hundred and fourteen yards in length this tunnel cost £9000. It had to be cut through soft clay rock and the whole interior had to be lined with bricks. Great delay was caused here through lack of building material and the "caving in" of two chains of the lining. At last in November 1876 nearly a year over contract time, J. C. Brown placed the last brick in the tunnel and the railway was opened to Waitahuna.

By March 16th 1877 the last seven miles of rails were laid and the first passenger carriage conveying J. C. Brown and certain officials together with four ballast waggons crowded with workmen from all along the line arrived in Lawrence amidst the greatest excitement and universal rejoicing.

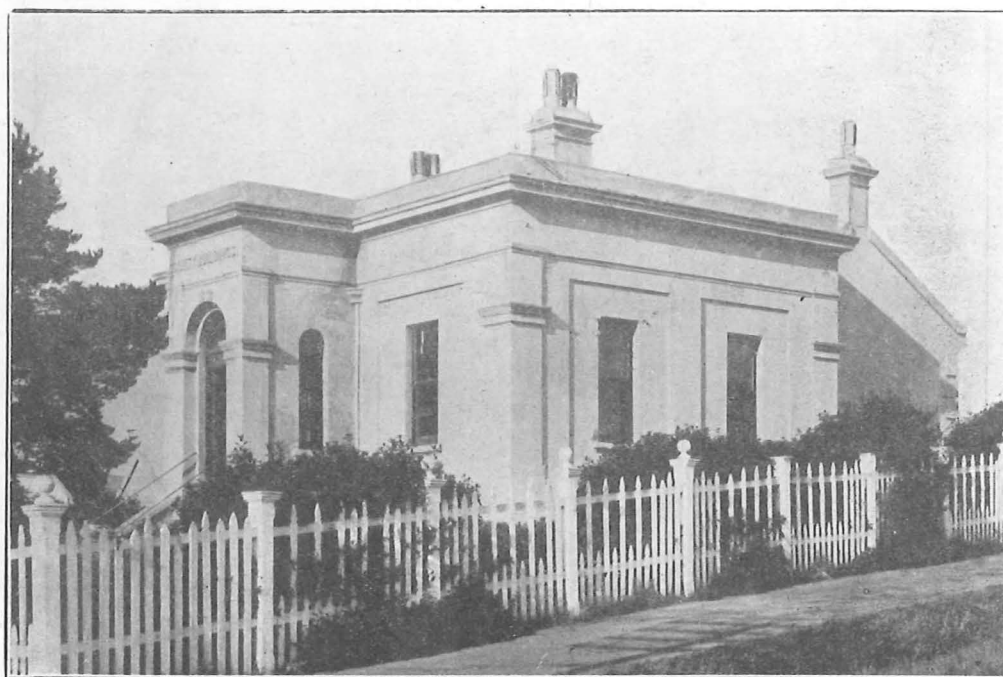
At one o'clock in the afternoon of April 2nd 1877 a train of seven carriages drawn by two engines steamed in to Lawrence conveying the guests who had come from Dunedin to celebrate the formal opening of the line. J. C. Brown fastened the last plates in position and declared the line open. Four hundred school children drawn up in a body sang "God of Nations-" the New Zealand

National Anthem, set to music by Mr. J. J. Woods, a local citizen who won the prize of ten guineas offered by the Proprietors of "The Otago Saturday Advertiser" 1876, and decided by the musicians of Melbourne, Australia, for the most appropriate air to which to set the words. Guests and citizens then to the number of two hundred sat down to a banquet and duly celebrated the opening of one of the first masterpieces of engineering construction over New Zealand hill and gully.

The total cost of the railway amounted to £240,000. At first the line did not pay, the expenditure exceeding the revenue by about ten per cent. Subsequent reduction in the number of trains run and the removal of two station masters from side stations, together with the gradually increasing traffic soon produced a credit balance.

In April 1885 the Government ran the first excursion train from Lawrence, and conveyed a thousand of the inland settlers to the seaside at Port Chalmers. It was a most successful inauguration of a useful institution. In the Spring of the same year the first excursion from Dunedin to Tuapeka was made. Several hundreds of visitors arrived in Lawrence, and literally formed a procession to the famous Blue Spur mine - the centre of attraction.

Agitation for the continuance of the railway line from Lawrence to Roxburgh was begun in 1903. The opening up of the land occupied very largely by fruit farms and the increasing number of settlers warranted the extension of the railway. In December 1905, the Hon. J.R. Seddon, Prime Minister, turned the



TUAPEKA COUNTY OFFICE, LAWRENCE.

1920

first sod. The railway was opened as far as Evan's Flat in 1907 and a bi-weekly service was run. In 1909 the Government announced that the railway must terminate at the Big Hill tunnel. Again the enthusiasm and petition of the settlers prevailed against opposition and on December 15th 1914 the railway was opened as far as Beaumont. The settlers are still working to secure a further extension of the line and if the same progressive and persistent spirit is maintained as in the past, the future should see the line completed to Roxburgh if not carried beyond.

(1V) The Tuapeka County Council.

The County was formed in 1876 in accordance with the New Act of the General Government and divided into eight ridings. There was a contested election in each riding whereby much interest was created. A Chairman, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, an Engineer and a Rate Collector were appointed. It is noteworthy that the first Clerk and Treasurer appointed was Mr J. J. Woods who still holds the position.

Bad roads were a legacy bequeathed by the Provincial Council. Many had been the complaints over the state of the roads and few the attempts made to improve those in the interior. In 1872, agitation for repairs to the Waipori Road before winter set in to make it ^{im-}passable was rewarded by an order for their execution.

To hasten proceedings contractors began at each end trusting to meet in the middle before winter. Alas, when compelled to stop

operations they were many miles apart and the very worst part of the road had not been reached. Frequently when in the interests of life and property- attention or repair in some form had become imperative the ruts were closed up with Manuka scrub. This was the material long employed for that purpose by the Provincial Government and it was accordingly known as " Provincial Metal".

In 1877, the County revenue amounted to £10,387 out of which one hundred and thirty four miles of main roads had to be undertaken. Thirty miles of these had been pitched and gravelled, twenty four were formed and eighty were still unformed. The cost of completing the hundred and four miles of roads unpitched was estimated at £95,000. The district roads within the County, which had an area of one thousand three hundred and sixty five square miles were one hundred and seventy miles in length, the gravelling of which would involve the expenditure of £76,500.

Through the efforts of the ever-loyal Representative J.C. Brown the County Council received upwards of £2000 towards its funds, from the Government. Twenty per cent of the Crown Land sales in the County was made to the Council. This was an important concession and helped considerably in supplying the needed funds.

Throughout 1878 almost without an interval extraordinary large sums were voted at successive meetings of the Council for road and bridge construction. One is forced to marvel at the works undertaken and successfully carried out. It was a year of extraordinary progress in the roading and bridging of the County.

In this same year, the Council Buildings were erected in

Peel Street above the Post Office. They are, like it, made of brick with cement facings, and contain offices for the Chairman, the Clerk, and the Engineer - at present Mr. John Edie, who is Mayor of Lawrence and Member of Parliament for the district. The Council Chamber, a large and well appointed room, fills the remainder of the interior.

vii. The School of Mines.

For several years the need of a practical knowledge of the Chemistry of minerals and the methods of testing ores had been left by miners and prospectors.

In November 1884, at the request of J. C. Brown, Professor Black, of the University of Otago, delivered three lectures on the Chemistry of Minerals to the Lawrence Athenaeum and Mining Institute. Enthusiasm was thus created among the miners to such an extent that under arrangements with the Government, Professor Black delivered a course of lectures and conducted laboratory classes in testing, assaying and valuing metallic ores. One hundred students enrolled for the course of lectures, of whom forty undertook also the practical work.

These classes met with such success that the next year, the Hon. W. J. M. Larnach, Minister of Mines, recognising the importance of the movement, took it up and extended it to the whole colony. The scheme did not aim at imparting an exhaustive course of instruction in the subjects of study, but aimed rather at giving the miners an elementary and practical acquaintance with the

branches relating to mining. The teaching staff consisted of Professor Black as general supervisor, and a staff of seven colleagues as assistants, six of whom were graduates from the School of Mines, at the University of Otago, Dunedin.

Thus by 1887 the School of Mines, initiated in Lawrence three years before had assumed undreamt of proportions. As was only to be expected, much of the enthusiasm died away, but not before several permanent Schools had been established in different parts of the colony though not in Tuapeka.

One permanent acquisition to Lawrence was a large and varied assortment of specimens of ore for the local Museum. Many of these were presented by Professor Ulrich, who also generously devoted time and labour to the classifying, and labelling of the specimens. The Museum was housed in the library of the Athenaeum building. Contributions to it, were made from time to time by Dr. Hector; curator of the Wellington Museum and J.C. Brown. Facsimiles of some of the largest nuggets obtained on the Victorian Goldfields were presented, and were of interest to the mining population. Archibald McKinlay also presented his Gold Miner's Right. It was of Victorian origin dated 1852 and had cost £2:0:0. The high price of these licences was one of the causes that led to the famous Eureka Riots at Ballarat in 1854.

VIII. Municipal Buildings and Public Institutions.

For an inland town there is no doubt that Lawrence was well endowed with public buildings and public institutions. If in the case of the former canvas and tin erections had to serve their

purposes temporarily in spite of great inconveniences, the new buildings were, without exception, well built, commodious and greatly improved the appearance and business facilities of the town.

Adjoining the Post Office in Peel Street, the new Court House was built in 1875. The Magistrate's Office and Court room at one end are connected with the Land and Survey Offices at the other end by a handsome colonnade. In the same block to the rear is the gaol, octagonal in shape and built of brick in 1874. The comparatively late erection of this building speaks volubly for the general orderliness of the district. Prisoners were few, and, though it is recorded that prison labour was used in street formation, the writer can find only one street in Lawrence formed by this means.

It is hardly to be wondered at then, that a telegram from the Government announced on April 1st 1881 that the gaol, as such, was to be abolished, the prisoners removed and the gaoler transferred. To the opposition received from the Borough Council on the grounds that the closing of the gaol would be "detrimental to the peace, welfare and good order of the community", the Minister of Justice replied that the Government had found the district for which the Lawrence gaol was utilised to be so orderly that there was absolutely no further need for a gaol there. The building was henceforward used only for prisoners of short sentence from Tuapeka and adjacent counties.

The large number of public institutions in Lawrence has assisted in training a large number of the people to political service, in fostering social life, and added materially to the



THE PROCESSION OF PIONEERS AND VISITORS RETURNING FROM THE VISIT TO GABRIEL'S GULLY. 1921.

Volunteer Hall on the left; Domain on the right.

general welfare of the community.

Among those that have fulfilled these purposes, must be included the Town Hall opened in July 1875 by a Citizens' Ball which was the first of many that have been held within its walls. The Hall has been in regular use for practically every form of amusement and public meeting. Its initial cost was £3,500; but with the letting of the shops on the ground floor and the cellarage in addition to the Hall, a large revenue was received by the Borough Council. The Council Room is also situated in the upper storey of the building.

Another institution of which the town has every reason to be proud is its Volunteer Fire Brigade, which has been in existence for over forty years. Military volunteering has been prominent in Lawrence from its earliest days. To one of the first infantry companies the town owes its commodious Volunteer Hall, built in 1887 at a cost of £500 and taken over in later years by the Defence Department; but available to the public for use as a skating rink, a gymnasium or any other temporary institution

The early citizens were not neglectful of the establishment of Benefit Societies and Lodges. The Masons were a particularly strong body and, like the Oddfellows, have been in existence for over fifty years.

The founding of the Hospital in 1861 has already been related. About 1885, J.C.Brown was successful in obtaining a subsidy from the Government of £3 for every £1 on all monies contributed towards the erection of a new building. This was made of brick, and contained three wards besides a dispensary, a store room and quarters for wardman and Matron. A separate residence

also in brick, was put up for the Medical officer. Situated on a hill in five acres of land, shut in from the roads on every side by large pines, yet open to the full benefit of the sun, the hospital was admirably placed for securing all the conditions conducive to health, and great praise is due to the forethought of the early founders on their choice of the site. Any one standing for election to the Hospital Committee was required to deposit One pound sterling.

(ix) Sport.

Among a people who are notably lovers of sport as are the people of New Zealand at the present day, it is interesting to trace the growth of this characteristic feature in the various districts. Perhaps a more typical one than Tuapeka it would be difficult to find.

The introduction of athletic sports by the pioneers almost immediately upon their arrival at Weatherston has been recorded in an earlier chapter. In 1868 the first of many annual Ploughing Matches was held in the district. Ten teams entered, but only six competed. The prizes, five in number, ranged from £5 to £1. A grand banquet in the evening invariably brought the day's programme to a close.

Cricket Club opening with over forty members was inaugurated in 1869. It was not long before the juvenile population showed themselves also enamoured of the game of cricket. Every evening all available pieces of ground were seized for the purpose of indulgence in the "noble game".

Skating on ice was a much sought pastime in the winter season, but owing to the comparative mildness of the frosts for many years, there has been no ice suitable for skating.

Tennis and Bowling Greens were put down in 1883, and two years later four gentlemen from Milton played and won the first Tennis Match against Lawrence. The Football Maiden Match was played against South Dunedin in 1884. A Cycling Club met with enthusiastic support in the nineties. Golf Links have since been acquired and this sport has many patrons.

Horse-racing has always been most popular in the district. The first race-course has for many years given place to a second well laid one on the Weatherston Flat. The Races held every Easter at Lawrence and also at Beaumont are perhaps the most popular fixtures on the Otago Goldfields.

It is interesting to us at the present day, familiar with the havoc wrought in the pastoral industry by the rabbit, to read the following passage extracted from "The Tuapeka Times" under date of January 30th 1869.

"The district is likely to become in a few years a resort for all lovers of sport. Wild rabbits already exist in considerable numbers on the ridges between Munro's and Gabriel's Gullies. Several have repeatedly been seen at Clark's Flat. We trust that every effort will be made to preserve a creature which not only adds a dainty dish to our table but also affords excellent sport and should enable our embryo sportsmen to practise as marksmen."

In thus encouraging the protection of the rabbit, the settlers little thought of the troubles they were ensuring for future generations.



Blue Spur, Tuapeka, 1868 from a sketch by A. Hamilton.
X. Mound now washed away.

CHAPTER VI.

LATER DEVELOPMENTS IN TUAPEKA. 1880 - 1920.

(i) Blue Spur.

Though indirectly reference has already been made to Blue Spur, it is now necessary to give an account of this golden hill which has proved to be one of the richest and most permanent alluvial mines in the world, and is still being worked with profit to the fortunate Company in possession.

Blue Spur derived its name from the colour of the cement deposit in this particular hill. So blue indeed was it that the water which was carried away with the tailings was also of the same colour. Frequently now the name is written "Bluespur" which tends to conceal the derivation of the name and is not correct according to that derivation. In this respect the name is not unique, for other examples are to be found in New Zealand, notably "Christchurch" which was by the founders of Canterbury intended to be "Christ Church" after the well known College in Oxford, England.

Being situated at the head of Gabriel's Gully, it was not till 1862 that the miners, having worked their way up the Gully began to dig for gold at the foot of the hill where a rich deposit was found. Few of the first miners knew anything of sluicing and attempts were made to get gold by sinking - a method largely employed in Victoria. A deep shaft was sunk from the top of the hill, and there by means of a windlass the dirt was brought to the surface.

The first party could not get the colour from the bottom of their shaft; but as much as from twelve to fourteen hundred ounces in value between £4,000 and £5,000 is recorded to have been taken out of claims adjoining that of the original prospectors. The construction of a race leading water on to the hill gave a new impetus to the working of the hill and so rich did the deposits prove that soon every available inch was taken up and the hill became a hive of industry..

"The conglomerate in the first instance was broken down by hand. Now and again an odd shot was put in to slacken the more obdurate strata. This suggested the idea of a big blast and the first claim holders on the Spur determined to make the plucky experiment. A drive in the shape of a T was made, each of the three chambers being charged with a ton of powder. To minimise the chance of accident the shot was fired at night. There was great excitement all around the Gully. People came from far and near to witness the upshot. It was fired by a galvanic battery and without doing the slightest unnecessary damage a wing of the hill was blown down bodily. The whole thing was pronounced an unqualified success, and in celebration thereof a Supper and Ball ensued. This was the inauguration of heavy blasting operations afterwards so popular on hill workings in Otago. Its results in the Blue Spur were that the mound eventually disappeared altogether." *

The richer parts of the deposit were driven out and the material crushed in stamper batteries

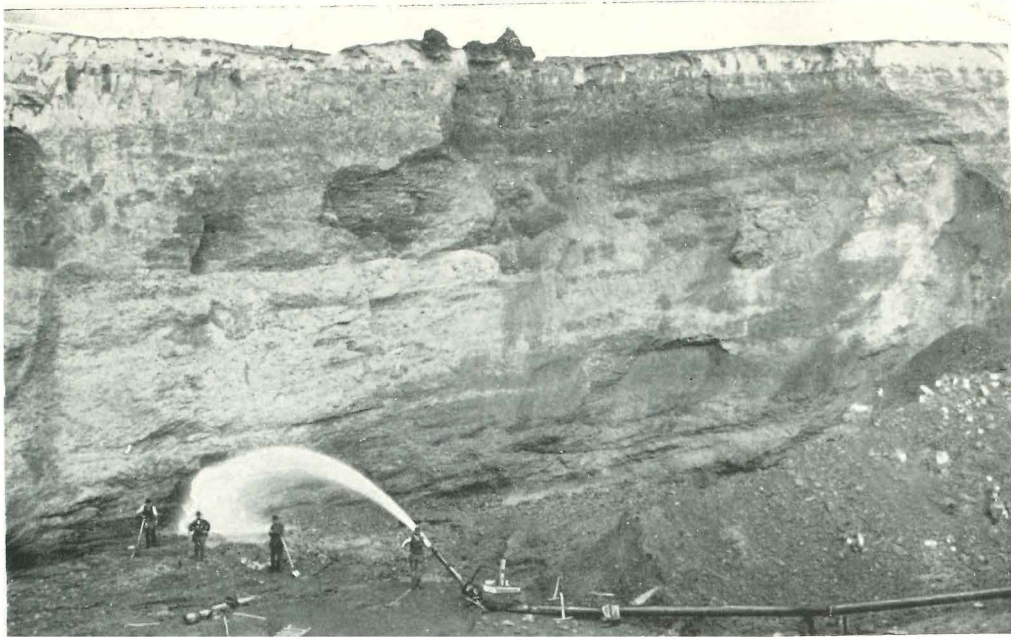
In spite of the scarcity of blasting powder, and its high cost for many years - frequently tenpence per pound - the great cost

* Essay on "Blue Spur, Otago" by A. W. Tyndale, 1903.

of machinery for crushing purposes and the frequent and expensive lawsuits which occurred, owing to the difficulty of exactly determining boundaries where the faces are from one to two hundred feet in height, the Blue Spur was ^{continuously} ~~continually~~ worked and yielded a remarkable return in gold. The nine companies whose leases were up in 1889 managed to extract, according to reliable estimates, over £1,000,000 of gold. About this time a Commission was given to J. C. Brown to float a company in England to take over most of the claims. After long negotiations the Blue Spur and Gabriel's Gully Consolidated Company, with a capital of £130,000 was formed. The tailings at the foot of the Blue Spur were first worked and the township originally situated there had to be moved to an adjoining hill.

At this time from eighty to a hundred men were employed and the population of Blue Spur was nearly five hundred. By 1902 the numbers of miners at work had fallen to forty and the population to two hundred. In 1913 the company went into liquidation. Its property was bought by the Gabriel's Gully Sluicing Company which has been treating the tailings with success since it began work.

Dr. Marshall, in his Report on the Geology of the Tuapeka District estimates "that gold to the total value of £5,000,000 has been obtained from the two areas of cement at Blue Spur and Weathersdon, together with their alluvia in the adjacent gullies" and " that in the cement deposits of the Tuapeka district there is an immense reserve of auriferous fluviatile gravel, which contain in the aggregate at least £5,000,000 worth of gold. The proper working of these deposits requires a comprehensive scheme of water supply and a corresponding great capitalization.



GROUND SLUICING IN THE SEVENTIES.



Mr. Rodger's Claim - Wāipori. 1916.

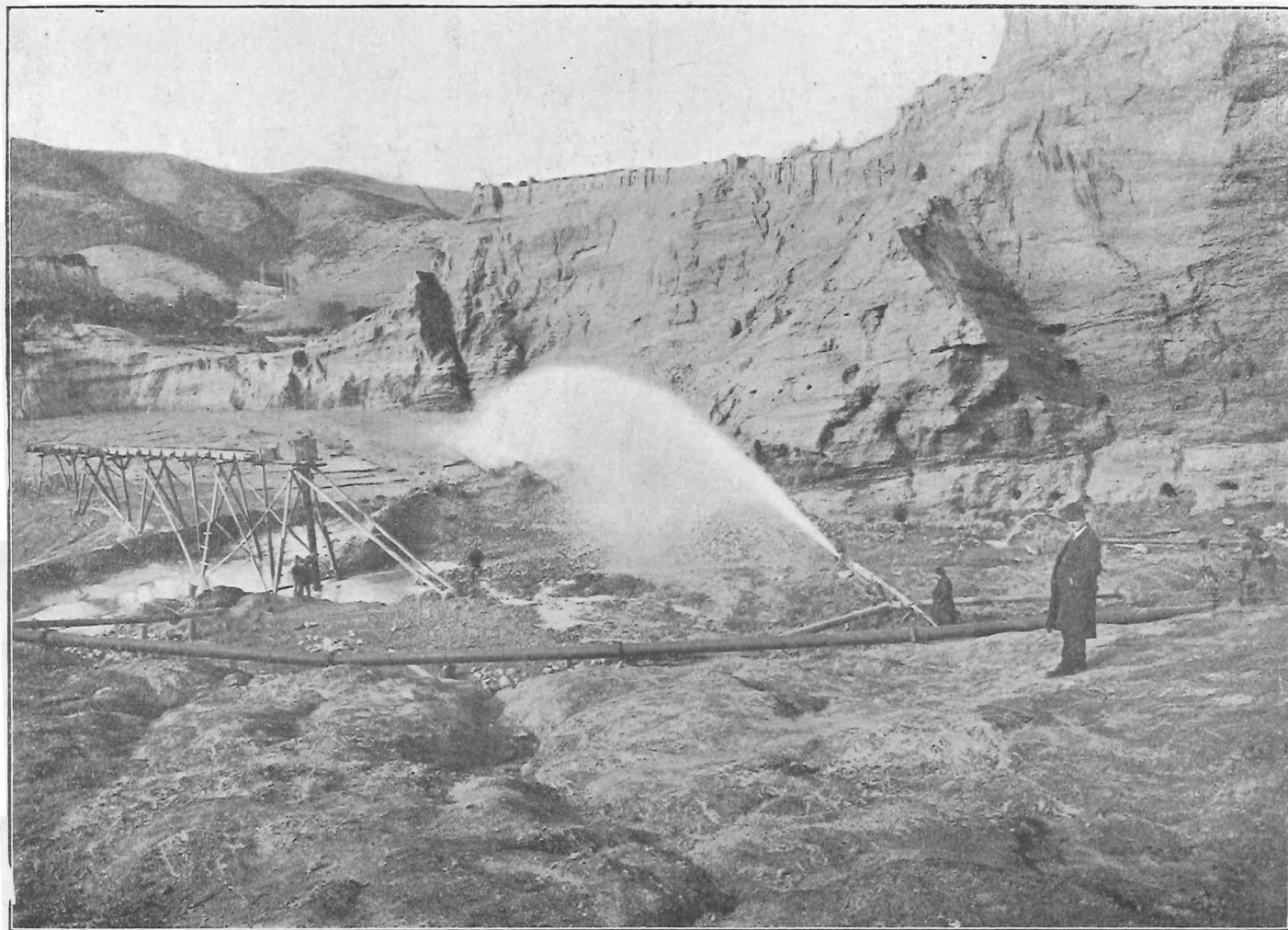
II. HYDRAULIC SLUICING AND ELEVATING.

The primitive methods of alluvial mining have already been described. They involved considerable manual labour, and, were slow and costly. By means of the cradle not more than half a yard of "wash-dirt" per day per man could be treated, while in the box-sluice probably from three to six feet per man might be washed.

A speedier and more effective method was ground-sluicing; but it was limited in its application as the "bottom" on which the "wash-dirt" rested had to be at a sufficient elevation to permit of a ground ditch or channel being constructed with a grade sufficient to run the auriferous alluvium through it into some hollow or river beyond. Water from the nearest stream was led on to the claim, and, by means of canvas hose, was directed on the auriferous alluvium which was carried down through the ground ditch into the hollow.

The ground ditch was roughly paved with stones set against each other in such a way as to resist the action of the flowing water and gravel. In the interstices between the stones the gold was caught. The ground sluice was cleaned up periodically when some thousands, or it might be tens of thousands, of yards of alluvium had been run through.

About 1880, when the deposits on the Otago Goldfields that could be worked by ground sluicing were almost exhausted, the system of hydraulic elevating was introduced by J. R. Perry and first used in Gabriel's Gully. "Formerly in use in California, Perry adopted the system and improved it in this respect, that whereas the Californian principle depended mainly on suction, Perry's adaptation depended more on direct pressure. Briefly described, the system is this: A



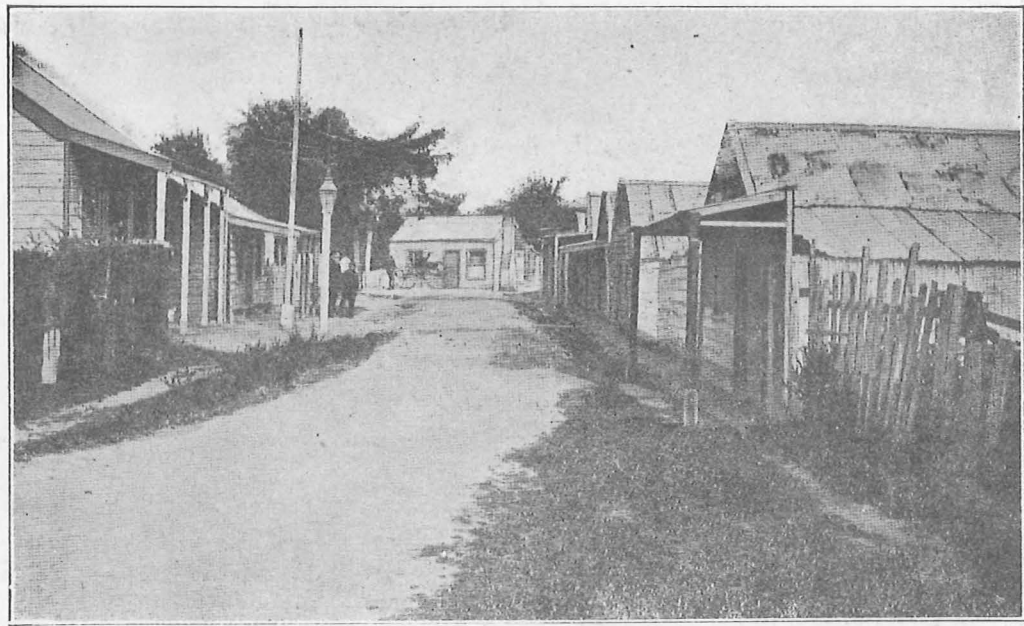
THE GOLDEN CRESCENT SLUICING CO.'S CLAIM AT WETHERSTONES, VISITED BY THE PIONEERS.
The water in the pipes under a pressure of 300lb to the square inch throws a jet for 300 yards.

1921.

sufficient quantity of water is brought in from a stream in a race cut at an altitude calculated to afford the necessary power to work ground of a certain depth. The water is conveyed in wrought iron pipes down the hillside to the claim. From this main column branch lines are led off. One line terminates in a 'director' fitted with a nozzle and used for breaking down the face of material. There may be one or more of these 'director' lines as required. One branch line is led to the sinking plant by means of which the material broken down is lifted or elevated out of the paddock or hole as the hole is excavated. The sinking plant which is an arrangement of pipes and swivel joints, sinks with the bottom until, the main rock bottom is reached. At this point an 'Elevator' proper is installed. A sump is sunk in the bottom and a branch- pressure led to it terminating in an upward- turned jet. Above this jet is set the mouth-piece then the throat and other castings surmounted by a column of pipes termed " dirt-pipes". The top of this column is high above the original surface in order to give fall for the material to be washed over a 'run' of boxes and still afford ample room for 'stacking' or disposal of tailings. The gold is saved by a rough kind of concentration on coconut matting overlaid by ripples, or perforated plates."x . Periodically the coconut matting which catches the gold is taken up and the gold is washed out in the miner's " panning off" dish.

So successful was the experiment at Gabriel's Gully that many more plants were put into operation and the system is

x "First Prize Essay" on The Mineral Resources of N.Z." P. 63.
by Robert McIntosh Assistant Inspector of Mines 1906.



STREET SCENE IN THE OLD CHINESE TOWNSHIP.

1911.

still extensively used on most of the alluvial goldfields in the Dominion. By its employment gold has been raised from depths of from one to two hundred feet.

As will be observed, science, skilled labour and capital have been called in to co-operate in fostering alluvial mining. Never again will the independent miner of the "old identity" type with nothing to call his own but the swag and the primitive mining contrivances he carried with him be able to find a living, much less a fortune, on the goldfields of Otago.

iii. The Chinese Camp.

February 21, 1866, is recorded as the date on which Chinese immigrants first arrived in Dunedin. It was not long before they found their way to the goldfields. By 1868 there were between eighty and a hundred employed in mining at Waitahuna, and by 1870 more than one third of the number of Chinese in the Province were located on the Tuapeka Goldfield. The following figures taken from "The Mining Journal" 1870 give a rough estimate of the distribution of the Chinese miners:-

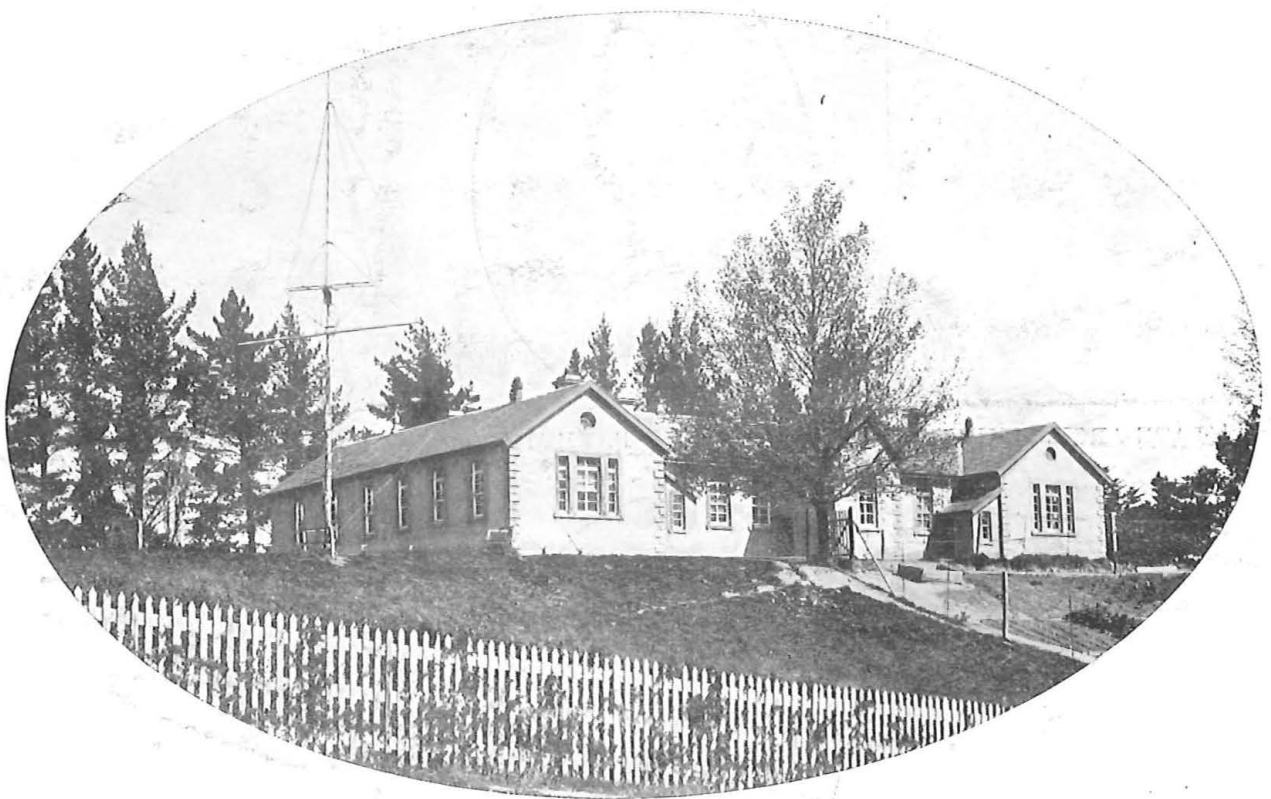
Waipori 450, Lawrence 300, Waitahuna 150, Beaumont 40. The total number on the Tuapeka Goldfield was 940, and in the Province 2,640.

In 1874, a large number of Chinese labourers were employed on the railway works at Manuka Creek, where a canvas town of considerable dimensions sprang up and was jointly occupied by Europeans and Chinese. Later in the year, Chinese labourers were engaged on the Channel works at Waipori. In 1875,

"The Tuapeka Times" reported that out of nine hundred miners in the district above half were Chinese.

It was not unnatural, therefore, that the Chinese should form a settlement of their own at Lawrence. About a mile from the town was this typical Chinese village known as "The Chinese Camp". It had streets, shops, a temple, an hotel and numerous houses. Although now in a dilapidated condition and bereft of most of its inhabitants, "The Camp" remains as a relic of an order of things fast passing away.

The increasing number of Chinese arriving in the Colony caused the colonists considerable anxiety and legislation was introduced to restrict their immigration. By the Chinese Immigration Act of 1881 a poll tax of £10. was imposed on every immigrant. At this time the number of Chinese in the colony was 5,004, and, though it had fallen to 3,711 in 1896, it was thought necessary to restrict still further their coming into the country. Consequently the Amendment Act passed that year raised the poll tax to £100. and limited the number of Chinese passengers that might be carried by vessels to New Zealand to one to every two hundred tons burthen. In 1907, an education test was added, requiring any Chinese purposing to land in New Zealand to be able to read a printed page of not less than one hundred words of the English language. The result has been a steady decrease in the Chinese population in the Dominion - deaths exceeding births and departures being more than arrivals. For the first nine months of 1920, however, the N. Z. Official Year Book ¹⁹²¹ ~~just published~~ states that arrivals exceeded departures by the large total of 905.



LAWRENCE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL.

1911.

(iv) The District High School.

Under the Education Ordinance 1856, Lawrence was proclaimed an Educational District in August 1864. Immediately steps were taken to erect new school buildings, and in 1865 the Lawrence District School was opened at the corner of Whitehaven and Irvine Streets on what came to be one of the most valuable sites in the town. The Rectory, a two storey wooden building occupied the section adjoining the school. In 1870, the Grammar School, as it was then called on account of advanced instruction in certain subjects being added to the curriculum, proved too small to accommodate the increasing number of scholars and was enlarged.

In 1877, when it was realised that the railway station would be placed opposite the school, and that the school corner would soon become the busiest and noisiest part of the town, another move was decided upon. This was also rendered necessary by the attendance having become so large that some of the classes had to be taught in the Athenaeum Hall. The site selected was an ideal one for the purpose. On a block of two and a half acres called the Market Reserve, situated on the top of a hill in the west end of Lawrence was built the present school - a brick building faced with cement. It contained six rooms and accommodated three hundred and fifty pupils.

In order to celebrate the opening of the school in 1877, members of the Education Board came from Dunedin, and various ceremonies and festivities occupied afternoon and evening.

The next year the Education Act, by which the General Government of New Zealand took over the administration of education from the recently abolished Provincial Governments, came into force.

and the school became a District High School.*

In 1891 when Mr. Stenhouse completed his twenty fifth year of service as Rector the people of the district showed their appreciation of his services by presenting him with an illuminated address, a handsome piece of plate and an album containing upwards of four hundred signatures of past and present pupils. In reviewing briefly the history of the school, Mr. Stenhouse referred to some of his trials in the days of the old Tin School. The difficulty in getting books was then a very serious one and for many weeks he had nothing but the New Testament to serve as a reading book. Several of these were collected and a few verses of the Gospel of St. John formed the daily English lesson. Advanced Arithmetic in those days began at Long Division.

As will be readily understood from the foregoing account of the history of Lawrence, there were practically no commercial positions opening up for the boys and girls leaving school. There were no industries that required the services of more than one or two helpers, in each business, and few parents could afford to place their children on the land. Consequently Mr. Stenhouse conceived the idea of preparing pupils for the Public Service Examination, and so well did he carry out the plan that hundreds of men and women today owe their good positions in life to his efforts. This plan is still carried on in the Lawrence D. H. School and every year some of its pupils receive positions in the various

* Where there are at least twelve pupils living outside a certain radius from and yet qualified to attend a Secondary School, with the prospect of more pupils, on the application of the parents a Secondary Department may be added to the Primary School and a specially qualified teacher appointed. The Primary School is then raised in status to a District High School.

~~Government~~ Departments of the Public Service.

The presentation of a flag and a fully equipped flagstaff was made to the school by the ex-pupils in 1903.

Six years later, Mr. Stenhouse, who had held the position of Head Master of the Lawrence School for forty five years, and who had seen the school develop from twenty three pupils in the old corrugated iron building to over three hundred in the District High School, retired from his labours in the cause of Education.

During all those years he took an active interest in every institution formed for the welfare and progress of the community. At the beginning of 1920 he gave up the Superintendency of the Sunday School - a duty he had carried out for fifty-four years. He still lives in Lawrence and maintains an active interest in the fortunes of his former scholars and in education in general.

His successor, W. Robertson, became an Inspector of Schools after a year's service, and the next Head Master, W.W. Turner, B.A. was killed on active service in 1918. Mr. H.C. Jones, who succeeded him, established a school Fife and Drum Band, which gave much pleasure and became a valuable asset to the community.

In 1910 a Technical School was erected on a corner of the playground. It contained three rooms fully equipped for the teaching of Cooking, Dressmaking, Science and Woodwork. Instruction in these subjects was given by specially qualified visiting teachers.

The school possesses a large flower and vegetable garden kept by the pupils of the upper standards, an ornamental shrub reserve and an asphalt tennis court. A piece of ground, four acres in extent, was loaned to the school on condition that it should be used for experimental cultivation by the pupils of the Agriculture class. Needless to say, the practical lessons on "The Farm" are among the most enjoyed of the weekly routine.

(v) Gold Dredging.

In 1889, one of the most important advances in the application of the dredging system for mining purposes took place. Large areas of ground could not be worked by the hydraulic system owing to the absence of water supply. Here then was a field for dredging and the first application of a dredge to work a dry-land claim was made at Waipori. So successful were the operations of this dredge that by 1899 dredges were spread over the auriferous flats of Tuapeka - chiefly at Weatherston, Waitahuna, Glenore, and Waipori. Fortunately, nature had endowed most of the dredging-fields with seams of brown coal and lignite, so that the majority of the dredges were able to procure fuel at a fairly cheap rate. Fuel was always a costly item at Waipori. This district became the birthplace of two notable adaptations of water-power to dredges. The former, that of William O'Brien, proved a decided success; the other, that of Johnston, failed, it is thought, on account of the poor nature of the ground.

The dredges in this district were of the sluice-box type and by their operations they transferred areas of mounds and hollows into level areas fitted for agriculture, grass-growing or tree planting. This has been the case in Weatherston where the grass covered fields afford pasture for grazing.

The dredging "boom" reached its height about the end of the ^{nineties} ~~eighties~~. As is usual in such a period many worthless claims were floated in the share market, and one after another of these proving unprofitable, foreign shareholders became at last disgusted and much capital was withdrawn.

The first dredging claim at Tuapeka was marked out by T. W. Lee about six miles below Lawrence; but the first dredge to commence actual work belonged to Uren and party. The Tuapeka Flat Co's. dredge situated a little more than a mile below Lawrence began work about 1896 and was the first dredge set going near Lawrence.

Dredging gave Lawrence temporary prosperity. In 1896 the population was 996, and in 1901 it was 1,159, an increase of 163. The development of the industry had provided employment for a number of working men, who, though scattered throughout the district had in a number of cases made Lawrence their headquarters and settled their families in the town. At this period a number of houses were built and occupied, but since then only an occasional two or three have been erected at intervals within the last twenty years.

Lawrence had not yet fulfilled the promise of its early years; but it must be remembered that the prosperity of all gold mining centres is at its best but transient, passing down to intervals of almost utter stagnation.

(Vi) Contributions from Tuapeka to the N. Z.
and South Seas Exhibition, 1890.

In the South Seas Exhibition of 1890

1 The most striking exhibit in the bays allotted to the County of Tuapeka was a gilt column standing ten feet high with a diameter of four feet, representing the quantity of gold taken from the Tuapeka Goldfield. The total production was estimated at £7,000,000 sterling, obtained within a period of thirty years.

Herbert & Co. showed samples of grain grown in the district, also varieties of grasses, rye and cocksfoot being the principal ones. Wheat flour and oatmeal were exhibited by the Tuapeka Milling Company.

and wool by the Waitahuna Fellmongery.

Specimens of antimony, copper, scheelite, cinnabar and manganese - the chief minerals found in the county - were contributed, including also greenstone from Waitahuna and pipe clay in blue, white and yellow, from Lawrence.

The sawmillers of Tuapeka Mount had on view stabs of totara, birch, white and black pine and other local forest products.

Home industries also occupied a large space in the display of products from Tuapeka.

(vii) Street Lighting.

Perhaps in no other town in New Zealand has a Borough Council been more exercised over the problems of street lighting than was the Lawrence Council.

In 1869 it was recorded that preparations were made to erect lamp posts for street lighting and in July 1873 "The Tuapeka Times" records that one of the Lawrence street lamps - alias white elephants - was lit for the first time and required two men and a boy to produce the desired result. The following morning the lamp was still alight and looked painfully melancholy in its solitude. The lamp posts had been made much too high and the supply of oil to keep the lamps going only for a few hours was for a long time incorrectly calculated.

Eventually twenty two kerosene lamps were installed for the lighting of Lawrence - one at least having the stump of a tree for its post became festooned with greenery as the new shoots grew around the old trunk.

The first definite step to provide a more efficient and up-to-date method of illumination was taken in 1901 when a contract

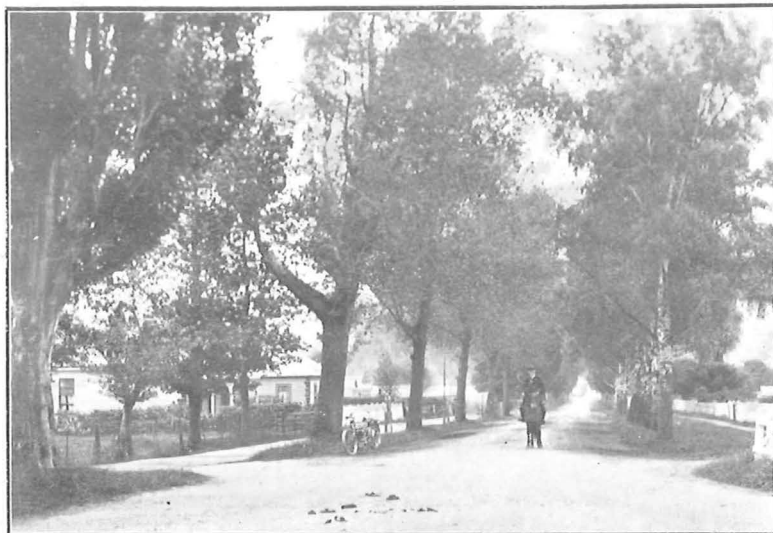
was accepted to light the streets and the Town Hall by water gas. As the contractor had not commenced the installation by the specified time the agreement was cancelled, apparently without any serious regrets.

Previous to this, in 1900, a proposal to light the town and private residences with electric light was considered, but, for various reasons mainly financial, the proposal fell through, only to be again revived in 1903 by a fresh proposition. After a series of lengthened meetings, both special and ordinary, discussing the matter in all its bearings, a tender was provisionally accepted at £4,835. This necessitated borrowing and a poll of the ratepayers was taken to sanction the raising of a loan of £5,000. The proposal was decisively rejected by the citizens.

As no further plan came up for discussion for some considerable time, the matter was held in abeyance till 1913 when a final choice was made, and the acetylene gas system was installed for streets, Town Hall and private lighting within a prescribed area, without recourse to a loan.

Owing to the shortage of carbide and its greatly increased cost during the Great War, this system has not proved as satisfactory as was anticipated.

A proposal is now on foot to obtain electric light for the town.



SUMMER VIEW OF WHITEHAVEN STREET, LAWRENCE.

1911.



WINTER VIEW OF WHITEHAVEN STREET, LAWRENCE.

1911

(viii) Naturalisation of the Daffodil.

In May 1871, through the efforts of Vincent Pyke and Thomas Darton "The Polycultural Society" was inaugurated in Lawrence. This Society was later divided and "The Tuapeka Horticultural Society" was one of the offshoots.

In the early days there were no trees on the Goldfield except in the gullies. As soon as land was taken up for residence, trees were planted, especially Blue Gums: but on the lower levels they were killed by the frost. Vincent Pyke was one of the first to realise the advantages to be gained from residence on the hillside and many people followed his example.

He was a great lover of trees and encouraged the planting of them. In Whitehaven Street, through his energy, there is today a beautiful avenue of birch and poplar trees extending for at least a mile. His own residence enclosed by trees and shrubs gave an added beauty to the town and the citizens who for many year with feelings of pride have heard their town described by the traveller as "the prettiest town on the goldfields" know this is largely due to Vincent Pyke.

The Tuapeka Domain Board came in to existence in 1885, and through its agency much has been done to improve the appearance of the town. The first Arbour Day celebrations in Lawrence took place in 1892 when four hundred trees supplied at two pence each by the Domain Board were planted by the school children around the school and on the old race course reserve. Some three hundred trees were planted at the same time at Blue Spur and sixty at Weatherston. Over 1,550 trees and ornamental shrubs were planted on the Domain

THE LIBRARY
CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

THE LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

DAFFODILS AT WETHERSTONES.



YOUNG HELPERS' LEAGUE, LAWRENCE, N.Z., SELL FLOWERS IN AID OF DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES. 1916



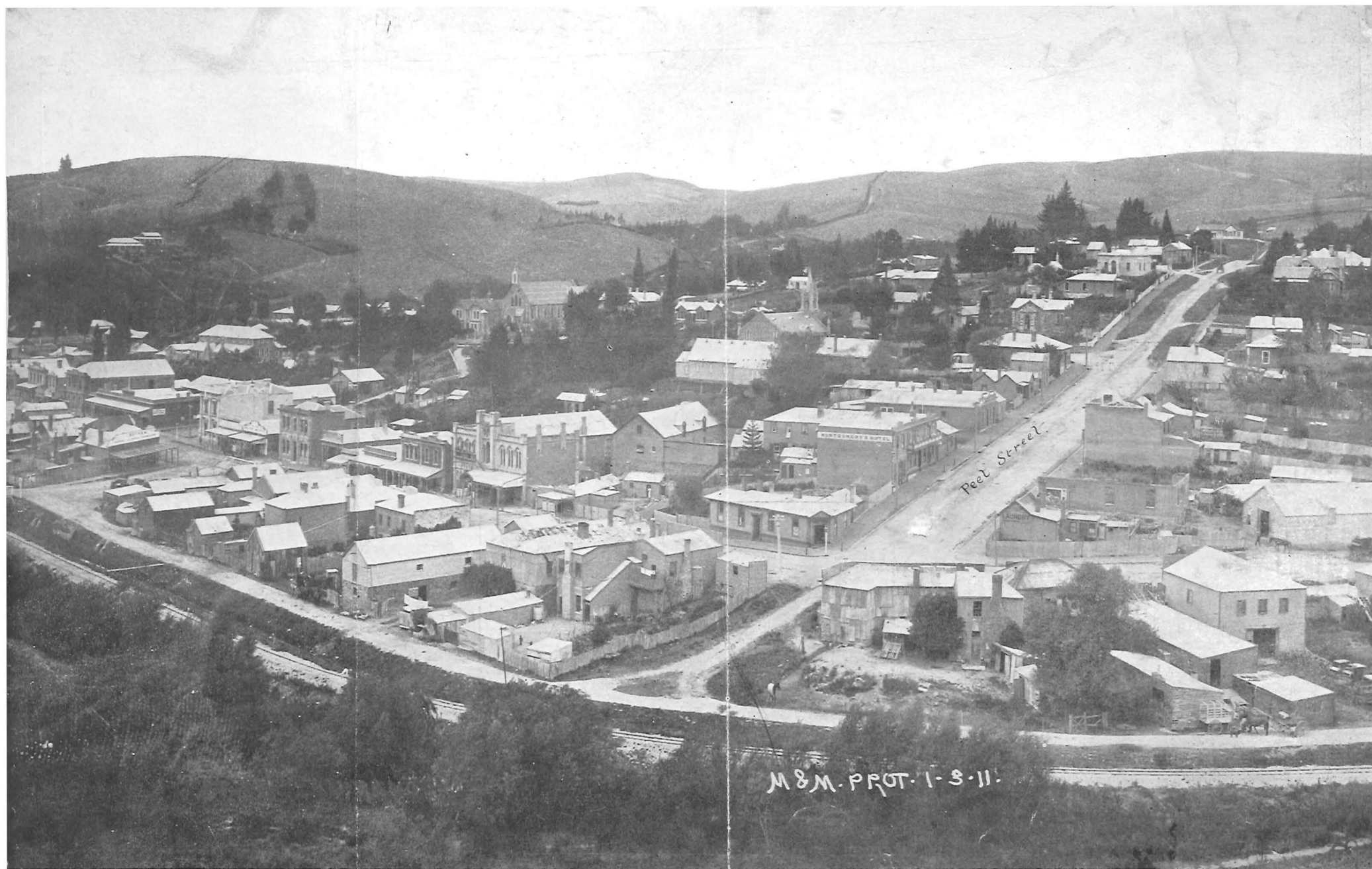
Daffodils in Mr Darton's Garden - 1916.
(Mr. Darton on the left.)

at the back of the town and year by year they give added attractiveness to this part of the Borough.

In order to add to its funds the Horticultural Society in September 1895 invited Alexander Wilson, Rector of the Otago Boys' High School to give a Lecture in Lawrence. Being a lover of flowers he chose the "Daffodil" for his subject. This flower was at the time in the infant stages of its development and a great interest was aroused through the lecture which led to its enthusiastic cultivation in Lawrence. Daffodils had been grown previously in Lawrence. Messrs. Hart had some fine varieties and were also engaged in the culture of new species from seed.

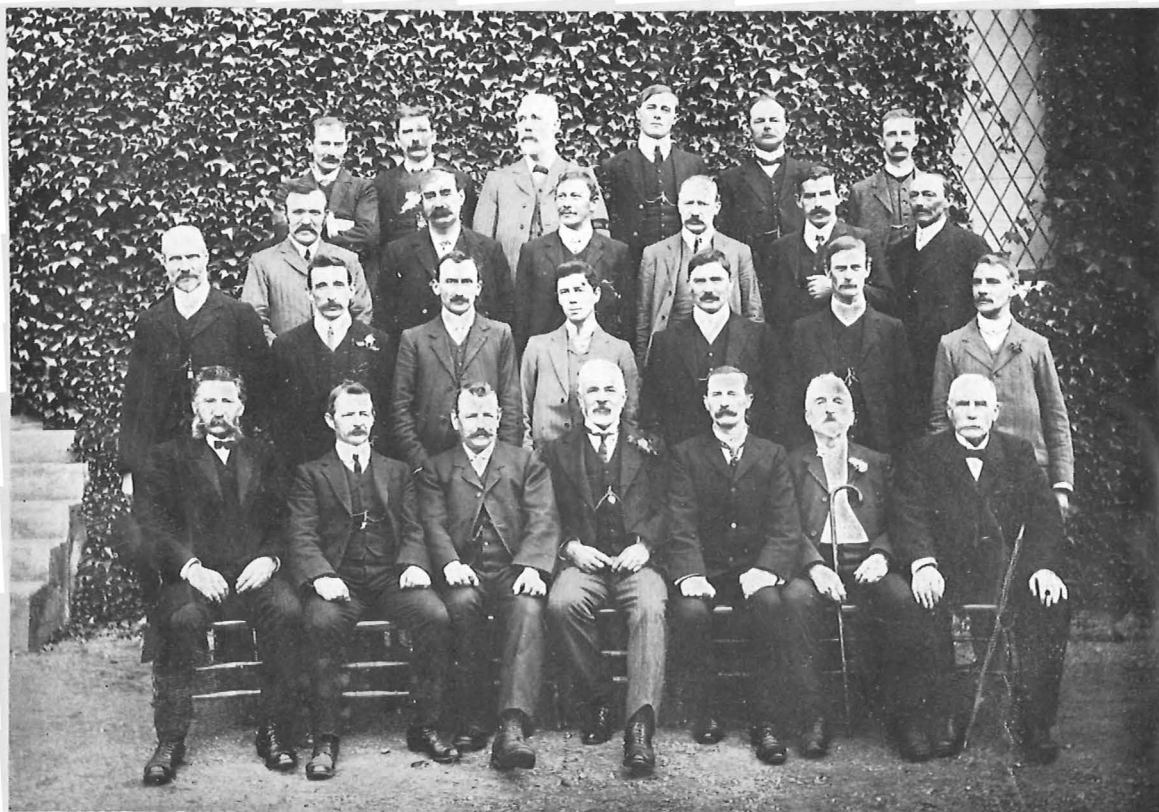
The Horticultural Society encouraged the cultivation of the bulb. It grew so easily and prolifically that it was decided to plant out on the hillsides of the Domain the surplus bulbs. Messrs. Hart had planted large areas in bulbs on the slopes of the hills at the back of the brewery. These, as time went on, became, every Spring, a more glorious spectacle and today about ten acres are covered with the beautiful flowers. Every season thousands of visitors from near and far come to see the blooms, and owing to the generosity of the owners they do not go empty handed away.

During the Great War, through the enthusiasm of Mr. H. L. Darton, a clever amateur horticulturalist, and his skilful organisation of the services of the school children, the narcissi generously donated by Messrs. Hart were gathered and forwarded to Dunedin by rail. Between thirty and forty thousand blooms would be systematically cut and tied together in bunches of from fifteen to twenty in two or three hours. The sale of these would realise between £100 and £150. In this way Patriotic Funds benefited to the extent of



A VIEW OF LAWRENCE, WHERE THE JUBILEE OF THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD AT GABRIEL'S GULLY WILL BE CELEBRATED NEXT WEEK.

1911.



SOME OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE GABRIEL'S GULLY JUBILEE, LAWRENCE.

Back Row:- A. Arthur, A. Blair, D. Christie, H. Thompson, W. Smyth, J. B. McKinlay.

Second Row:- N. Robson, A. Campbell, A. Dimmock, J. Norrie, W. Strachan, J. A. McNeilly

Third Row:- H. Brown, J. McCrae, G. H. Martin, R. C. Moore, J. Keenan, J. Rathray, W. Worr.

Front Row:- J. K. Simpson, H. L. Darton, B. W. Winn, J. Robertson (Mayor) G. Jeffrey

John Stenhouse

over £1,000.

It is a curious coincidence that the yellow flowers should have claimed so easily and so quickly for their home the ground which bore the yellow metal.

(ix) The Jubilee of the Discovery of Gold in
Tuapeka, 1861 - 1911.

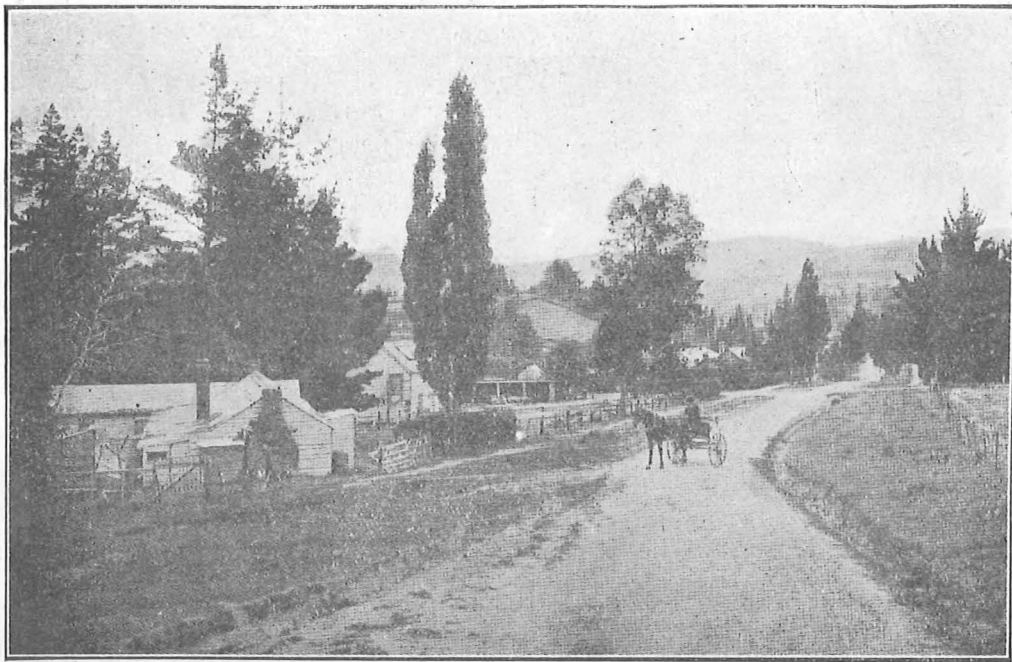
Nearly ^Ffifty years have passed since those stirring days in the early sixties when, at the height of the "rush", it was estimated that seventeen thousand miners were digging for gold on the Tuapeka Goldfield.

The gradual decrease of alluvial mining has been noticed; the discovery of gold bearing reefs gave fresh impetus to the industry and the population showed an appreciable increase for a short period. In the early ninties the introduction of dredging again brought more miners and their families to the district.

Owing to want of sufficient capital and skilled labour dredging gradually declined and at the time of the Jubilee the district was passing through a period of comparative stagnation.

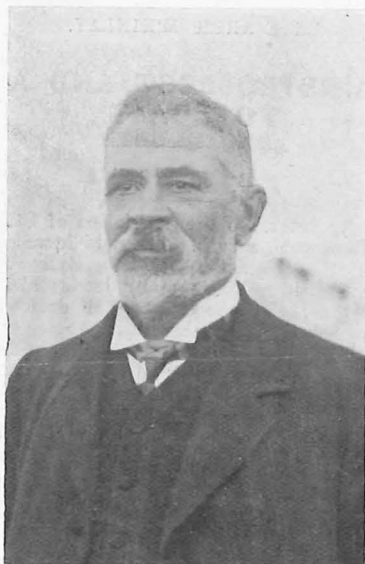
Looking back on the historic past of their district, the pioneer miners still dwelling within its confines conceived the idea of celebrating the year of Jubilee by a reunion of pioneer miners and a representation in miniature of the scenes of the early days. This proposal they laid before Mr. James Robertson, the Mayor of Lawrence, who as a young man had been one of the first on the field.

With characteristic enthusiasm and perseverance, Mr. Robertson began to interest others in the scheme, and when he felt sure



MR ROBERTSON'S RESIDENCE (ON LEFT), ONE OF THE EARLIEST
HOUSES BUILT IN THE DISTRICT.

1911

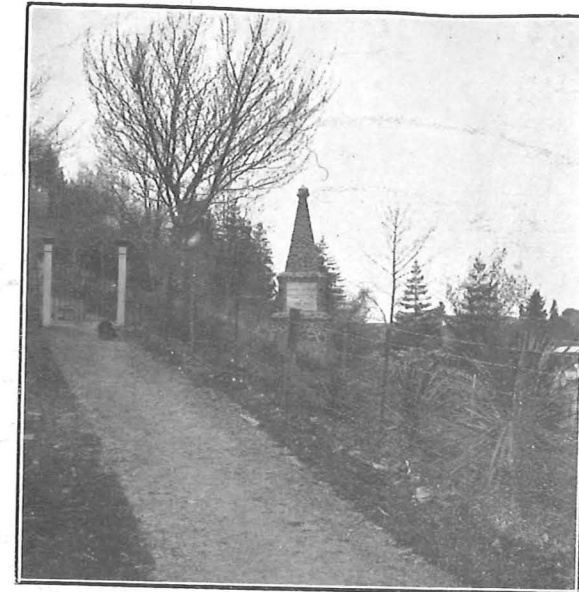


MR JAS. ROBERTSON,
Mayor of Lawrence.

1911



MR J. C. BROWNE,
Secretary Jubilee Committee, 1911



1916.
ENTRANCE TO DOMAIN, LAWRENCE, SHOWING PIONEER MINERS' MONUMENT.



—H. C. Gore, photo. THE GABRIEL'S GULLY PIONEERS IN FRONT OF THE MEMORIAL ERECTED TO GABRIEL READ, THE DISCOVERER OF THE GOLDFIELD. 1921.

of the whole-hearted support of the citizens of Lawrence he approached the Government for a subsidy of £500 to assist in meeting the expenses of the project. This was granted. A large and energetic Committee was formed to carry out the details of the scheme. So successful were its efforts that subscriptions amounting to £800 were received and no fewer than two hundred and fifty pioneers in the declining years of their lives reached Lawrence on Saturday, May 19th, to spend a week in reviewing the scenes of their early manhood.

Special Thanksgiving Services were held on the Sunday. By Monday there were three thousand visitors in the streets watching the procession representative of the early sixties. At its head were George Munro and his wife - the earliest settlers living. The Coach, and the Gold Escort of mounted troopers, Major Croker, the first warden of the Goldfields, illustrious Jock Graham seated on horseback delivering the mail as he did in the early days; miners in the typical blue shirt and moleskin trousers carrying their swags were represented in the procession.

During the week of ideal weather that followed, the miners were entertained as in the past. They dug for gold in claims using the cradle and other old time contrivances. Great was their merriment on finding the claims had been "salted". Sports and concerts typical of the mining community were held and everything possible was done to honour the surviving members of the grand pioneer band who had led in the van of progress.

The receipts of the Jubilee Committee amounted to £1,300, and the expenses to £1,150, leaving a balance of £150 which was expended on the erection of a cairn near the entrance to Gabriel's

Pioneers of Tuapeka. 1861.



G. JEFFERY,
Lawrence.



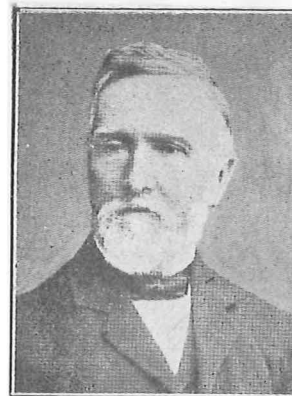
B. HART,
Lawrence.



LATE W. F. SMYTH.



THOS DARTON, SEN.,
Lawrence.



MR ARCH. M'KINLAY.



PIONEERS AND VISITORS, AFTER VISITING GABRIEL'S GULLY,
RETURNING TO THE TOWN HALL, LAWRENCE.

Looking down Ross Place - the main street - 1921.



A. Saturday Afternoon Pastime - 1915-1918

Gully in commemoration of the discovery of gold in 1861 by G. Read, and the Jubilee 1911.

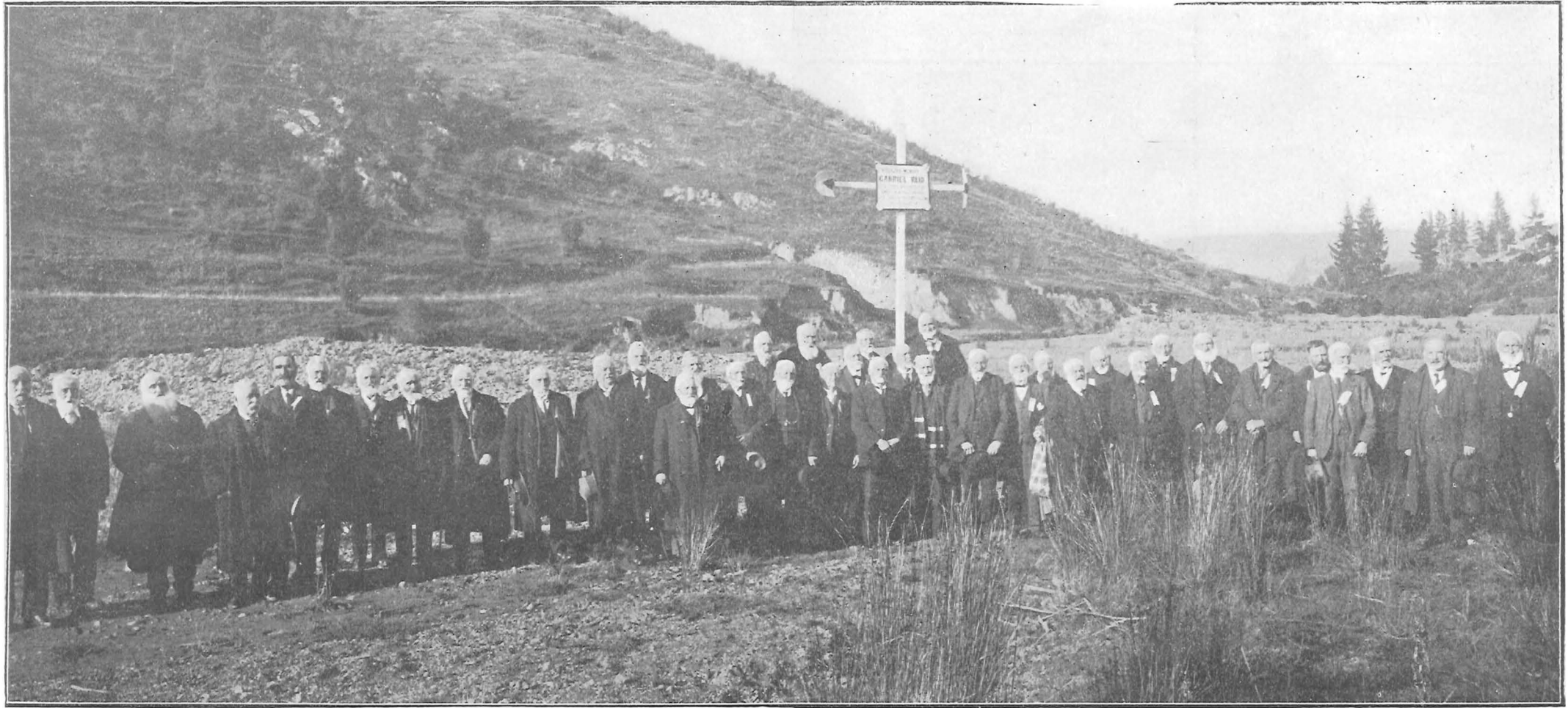
X. Peace Day in Lawrence.

As is only to be expected in a district in which the memory of the pioneers is so proudly cherished, the spirit of patriotism developed very strongly during The Great War. The Call to Arms was no sooner sounded than the sons of the district set out for camp. Not a few left with the Main Body of the Expeditionary Force and in every Reinforcement that followed, Tuapeka was well represented. To those left at home the all-important duty was the care of their men at the Front, and right nobly did one and all, even the children, give of their best in the making of comforts, sending of parcels and raising of money for these purposes.

No district heard with greater joy the news of the Armistice than did Tuapeka. By the time Peace Day had arrived a garden had been thought of, planned and laid out to mark the establishment of Peace, and to commemorate for all time the undying fame and honour of the illustrious dead. The Peace Garden has been planted with trees and shrubs, each being, as its inscription indicates, in memory of some brave soul who sacrificed himself in defence of right and liberty

XI. Gabriel's Gully Diamond Jubilee.

Another decade has passed, and again the residents of Tuapeka assemble to honour the men of the old brigade who did so much to promote the prosperity of their district in particular and of the Dominion in general. Upwards of forty of the men of '61 who took part



SOME OF THE SURVIVING PIONEERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE RUSH, WITH A FEW VISITORS, ON THE SITE OF THE CLAIM WORKED BY GABRIEL
—H. C. Gore, photo. READ, THE DISCOVERER OF THE GOLDFIELD.



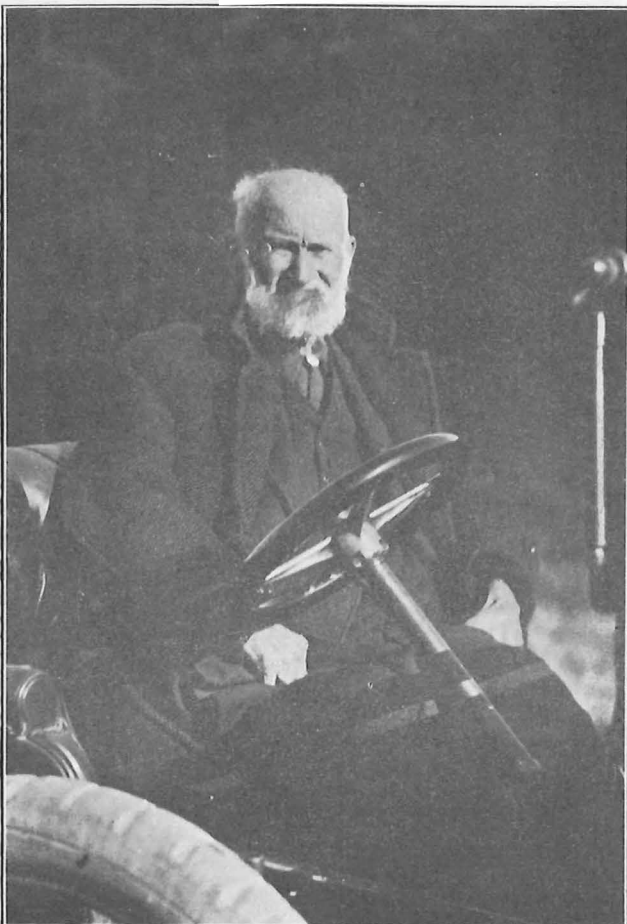
MRS SUTHERLAND.
Nee Bella Munro, the first
girl born in Munro's Gully,
which adjoins Gabriel's Gully.



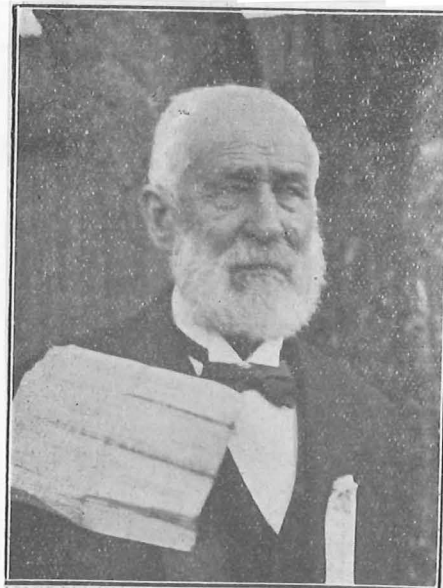
MR J. C. PENNELL (Roxburgh).
First boy born in Waita-
huna Gully, and first mail
boy at Gabriel's.



MRS D. GAIN (Dunedin).
Nee Victoria Morris. The
first girl born at Gabriel's
Gully. 1921



MR JOHN PONSONBY, OF LAWRENCE,
Ninety-one years of age, the oldest pioneer present at the celebrations.



MR JOHN L. POTTER, Timaru (87).
Possessor of a miner's right issued to him
at Ballarat, August 1, 1856. He was present
when the "Welcome Nugget" was wheeled
out of the claim where it was found. He
reads without glasses, and is quite nimble.

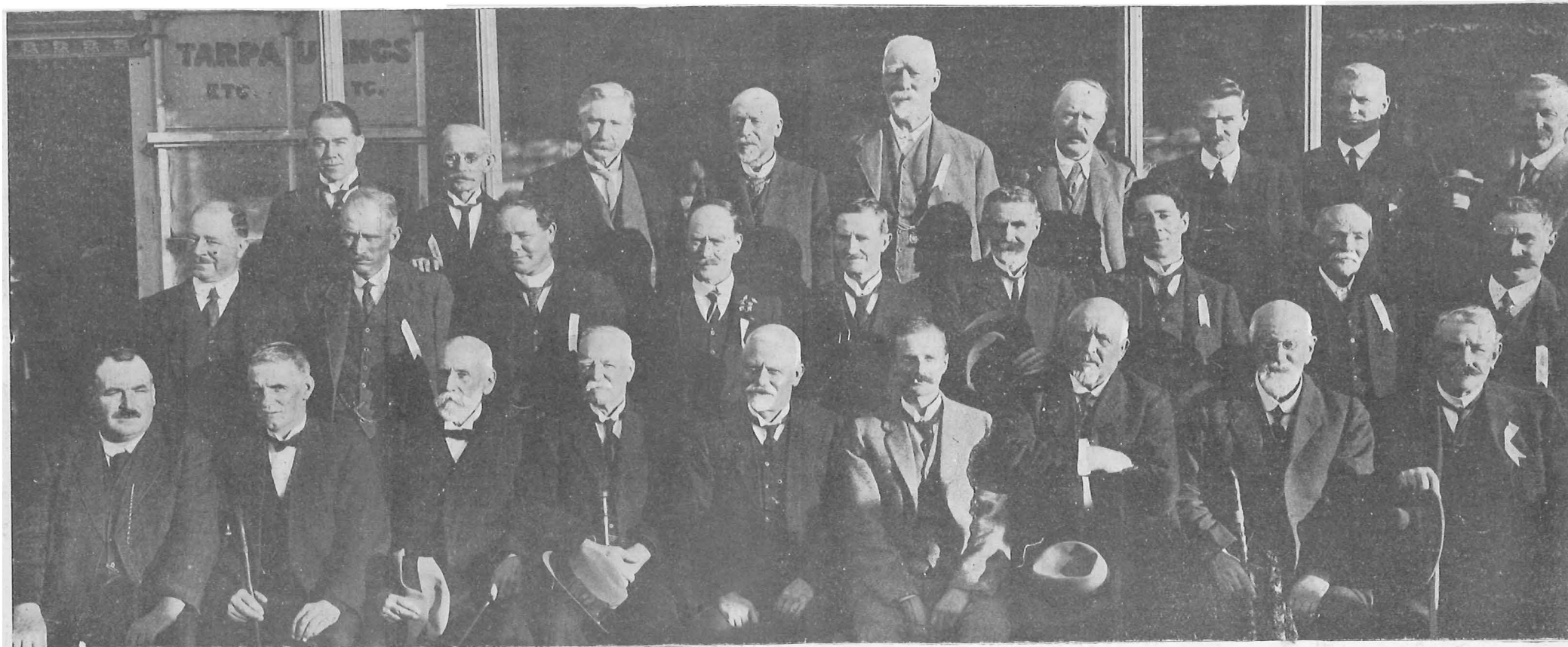
Celebrities of Tuapeka. 1921.



GABRIEL'S GULLY PIONEERS OF 1861-62.

Back row: William Hislop (Mosgiel, 81), Wm. Woods (Beaumont, 77), Jas. Wright (Houipapa, 73), John Drysdale (Milton, 76), Geo. Calder (Dunedin, 76), Wm. E. S. Knight (Dunedin, 63), Jas. Chas. Pennell (Roxburgh, 69), Joseph Grimmond, M.L.C. (Ross, Westland, 77).
 Second back row: Patrick Fahey (St. Bathans, 79), Jas. M. Brosnan (Mataura, 72), Robt. Cowie (Weatherstones, 73), Hugh Bruce (Lawrence, 70), Robt. Geo. Angus (Waitati), Donald Jno. Grant Mackay (Beaumont, 63), Jno. Blair (Dunedin, 76), Henry Hagen (Waitahuna Gully, 67), Fred Wm. Knight (Dunedin, 65), Daniel Keenan (Lawrence, 84), John Black (Waitahuna Gully, 75), Jas. Hislop (Kaitangata, 77).
 Third back row: Alex. Jenkins (Invercargill, 81), Alick Brydie (Clarke's Flat, 84), Maunsil Blackmore (Waipori Goldfields, 74), Job Osborne (Christchurch, 80), Sampson Uren (Tamaru, 77), William Watkins (Christchurch, 81), David M'Intosh (Lawrence, 77), John Lishman Potter (Timaru, 87), David Stewart (Hammer Springs, 77), Michael Hunt (Lawrence, 75), Francis Moyle (Lawrence, 79).
 Front row: Jabez Hay (Invercargill, 86), William Halliday (Invercargill, 81), John Pearson (Beaumont, 81), Robert Webb (Lawrence, 84), Robt. Ledlie (Blue Spur, 85), William Stanley Howard (South Wyndham, 83), William Bailey (Oamaru, 73), Stephen Noble Brown (Dunedin, 76), John White (Dunedin, 81), Alex. Fraser (Lawrence, 80), John M'Hattie (Lawrence, 91), Robt. Miller (Sawyer's Bay, 79), Andrew Young (Roxburgh, 87), Robt. Meek (Fairfax, 83).

1921.



VISITORS AND MEMBERS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE, DIAMOND JUBILEE, GABRIEL'S GULLY.

Back row: Messrs F. N. Sherwood, Walter Anderson, J. K. Simpson, J. Horne, M.P., D. L. Christie, J. Norrie, D. Lockhart, D. M'Lennan, H. L. Darton (secretary).
 Middle row: Messrs J. R. Smyth, D. Munro, W. R. Smyth, T. H. Clark, J. C. Browne, H. Rennie (Mayor Milton), R. C. Moore, D. M'Intosh, F. Robertson.
 Front row: Hon. Fleming, M.L.C., Mr E. Kellett, M.P., Hon. G. M. Thomson, M.L.C., Sir George Fenwick, Hon. G. J. Anderson, M.P., Messrs J. B. M'Kinlay (Mayor Lawrence), John Edie, M.P. (chairman), Hon. Mark Cohen, M.L.C., Mr B. W. Winn.

1921.

in the "rush " immediately following the announcement of the discovery of gold were present. These veteran visitors, who were billeted by the citizens of Lawrence, arrived on the day previous to the Sixtieth Anniversary of the discovery, and the whole of the next day, May 20th 1921, was given up to their entertainment.

As soon as the frost and its attendant fog had dispersed, the pioneers were motored in brilliant sunshine to look once again upon the scenes of their youth. The first stop was made at a spot about a mile up the Gully where an upright rail with a pick and shovel at the top mark as nearly as can be fixed the site of Gabriel Read's claim. The inscription "Erected in memory of Gabriel Reid, the first discoverer of gold in Otago in 1861, on the site of his first claim. 20:12:1 is of course a mistake. Read's distinction is that he was the first discoverer of a payable goldfield, and the correct spelling of his name is "Read". Having been photographed by a variety of cameras, the old miners were taken wherever they wished to go. In the afternoon they were entertained by the ladies of Lawrence at afternoon tea and a Complimentary Dinner was tendered them in the evening. After this they adjourned to the Town Hall to take part in the last of the functions - a Smoke Social. It was open to ladies, and the large building was crowded with a merry audience. The Government of the Dominion was represented by the Hon. J.G. Anderson, Minister of Mines, himself a Lawrence boy. He greatly enjoyed being among his old schoolmates and seeing again his honoured teacher, Mr. John Stenhouse, and Miss Fowler who for forty years was the latter's worthy assistant.

Reminiscences and songs filled the programme, and when after supper the happy party dispersed, the pioneers were already looking forward to another reunion in ten years' time.

CHAPTER VII.

FUTURE PROSPECTS, and CONCLUSION.

(i) The Problem Stated.

It is an ill-founded optimism that can view without a tremor the fact that the population of Tuapeka during the last five years has decreased by two hundred. Children are the nation's best asset, and yet in Lawrence there is practically no work or opening of any kind for the boys and girls leaving school. They must go elsewhere to earn a living and their country is the loser. Very frequently whole families leave the district in order that the children may still live at home. Will the town then continue to decrease until it becomes a mere siding on the Dunedin to Beaumont railway line, or has there been laid in the meantime a sufficiently substantial foundation for continued life and prosperity?

(ii) Pastoral and Agricultural Industries.

As already shown in these pages, it was the letting of the Crown Lands for the pasturing of cattle and sheep that first led to the opening up of the country, and with the formation of settlements on the land for this end, the need for agriculture arose - the demand for it becoming greater as the population increased. It is these industries that provide a very large

source of the wealth of Tuapeka and one that can be depended upon with more certainty than mining.

A foundation was laid for them in the early days of settlement and in the seventies the "rush" for land was almost as great as the "rush" for gold in the sixties. The breaking up of large estates for closer settlement has increased the output of these industries and there is still ample room for closer settlement in Tuapeka.

To a certain extent settlement is limited, for on the Waipori side the land, on account of its high and rocky nature, is totally unsuitable for agriculture. The gentle slopes and rounded spurs of the south west area are best adapted for farming. In many parts of the district the land is poor in quality and the severity of the weather in spring frequently delays grain-sowing. This makes the cereals late and tends to prevent their ripening to the best advantage. There are records showing that in certain parts of the country the returns have been as good as in other parts of the Dominion generally thought to be more favoured by nature for cereal production.

On account of the poor quality of the land, pastoral runs are necessarily of considerable extent. The gradual disappearance of the rabbit is having a beneficial effect on the productiveness of the region and the carrying capacity of the land is increasing, so that in the near future there is every likelihood that pastoral runs will be subdivided. Population would thereby increase, as also the production of the district.

The tendency in the past has been to keep to old-fashioned

methods of farming; but with the application of manures and of the principles of science in general to the cultivation of the land and to the rearing of sheep and cattle, the output has every prospect of being doubled and even trebled in the space of a few years.

Should no other industries remain except those connected with farming the town of Lawrence is not likely to be reduced to a railway siding; but will probably always remain a Borough and the chief centre in Tuapeka.

(iii) FACTORIES.

It may be asked "Why have no factories been established in Lawrence? Is it not likely that progress ^{would} ~~may~~ have been fostered by this means?"

In 1905 a creamery was established in Lawrence, and at first it paid its way. Owing, however, to the great distances over which many of the settlers had to bring their milk it did not receive all the support expected. When the invention of the hand separator made it possible for separating to be done at home, thus saving time and money it was found necessary to close the creamery.

A butter factory was another suggestion; but it was ascertained that there would not be sufficient cream for the district to maintain a factory, particularly when every facility existed for sending surplus cream by rail direct to the Taieri and Peninsular Butter Factory in Dunedin.

The introduction of rabbits into the district has already been mentioned. By 1881 they had become such a pest that their

extermination was decreed by Act of Parliament. In 1884, 1890 and again in 1919, it was proposed that the establishment of a rabbit canning factory would be a lucrative means of disposing of the rabbit nuisance. The latest Committee appointed to procure all possible information bearing on the industry reported that to make any profit at least four thousand rabbits must be handled daily and the plant and building necessary would cost between two and three thousand pounds. Similar factories established at Middlemarch in Central Otago and others in Southland were giving most satisfactory returns. With such a large district as Tuapeka to draw upon for its supply of rabbits, there was every probability of the venture proving a success; but the necessary shares were not taken up.

It has been proved that Tuapeka is well suited for the growing of flax and there is good reason to believe that flax mills and a rope factory could be made profitable investments in the district.

In the establishment of factories of whatever kind, capital is required, and, moreover, the residents in the district must be whole-hearted in the matter, and must do their share in supplying the raw material regularly and in sufficient quantity. In a declining district it is a very difficult matter to induce people to expend capital in helping forward the district and to arouse any enthusiasm in industries which entail the employment of much labour - so necessary for success, and yet so difficult to obtain.

(iv) Gold Mining.

There is no certainty that gold mining has been played out at Tuapeka. Dr. Marshall, formerly Professor of Geology in the University of Otago, in his geological survey of the district reported the blue cement deposit so rich in gold at Blue Spur to extend through Weatherston, Forsyth, Waitahuna and Adam's Flat in a south easterly direction towards the sea coast at Kaitangata. He estimates that the treatment of this deposit will provide work for hundreds of years, and that its gold content is worth several millions of pounds.

So far this deposit has been worked at Blue Spur, Weatherston and Waitahuna only. For lack of water it has been impossible to work it elsewhere, although prospecting has actually revealed the presence of gold in many parts of the seam, - notably at Forsyth railway crossing only four or five miles distant from Lawrence. If only some method of profitably working this cement could be discovered it would doubtless open up a new era of prosperity for Tuapeka.

That there are rich quartz mines on the goldfield has been proved without a doubt; but of all methods of obtaining gold, quartz mining is the most expensive in its initial stages. A large amount of machinery, other capital, and skilled labour is essential. If the necessary capital could be procured and cheap power obtained for working the reefs, Tuapeka might again become one of the richest gold mining centres in the Dominion.

(v) Minerals other than Gold.

Copper was early discovered in the district, and a company was formed in 1881 to work the lode at Waitahuna. Seventeen tons were shipped to England and several hundreds of pounds spent on machinery about the mine, Capital then being exhausted, nothing more was done.

Much the same fate seems to have befallen the company which began to work the antimony lode nine miles from Waipori, and which shipped sixty tons to be smelted in England.

Cinnabar is reported as having been constantly found in the alluvial gold workings and attempts have been made to work the lode but apparently without profitable results.

In reference to these mineral deposits, Dr. Marshall in his Report on the Geology of the Tuapeka District, says that from the appearance of the lodes it is impossible to form an opinion as to the amount of ore obtainable. He adds, "the cinnabar, however, is of remarkably good quality".^x

Scheelite was found by the early alluvial gold diggers all over the Waipori goldfield in 1865. Since the mineral has become of considerable value, search has been made for regular deposits and some have been worked with successful results.

Extensive lignite deposits are known to exist in various parts of the district, the one in Lawrence being successfully worked for sixteen years. Samples from a neighbouring deposit sent to the Sydney Exhibition many years ago were awarded a silver medal and first class certificates.

Here, then, are lying dormant resources which may yet bring wealth to Tuapeka.

x "The Geology of the Tuapeka District", P. 44.

(vi) Afforestation.

Timber is almost a necessity, and in New Zealand the supply is so far behind the demand that a movement is on foot for establishing a School of Forestry. Of late years serious consideration has been given to the planting of large areas with trees. Land is available for this purpose in Tuapeka and timber-yielding trees grow well. There is therefore every likelihood that the district may yet be of service in furthering afforestation.

(vii) A Tourist Resort.

Lawrence can provide many attractions to "week-enders" and "campers-out". The climate presents a great contrast from that of the City or the seaside and facilities for the ordinary open-air games are abundant. Other means of enjoyment are deer-stalking on the Blue Mountains, shooting hares and rabbits in the neighbouring gullies, fishing in the well stocked rivers, and visiting the various mining operations. Reading material of every description is available in the local Athenaeum. Friendliness towards visitors is a widely known characteristic of the Lawrence people, who find pleasure in giving information concerning the history of the district and in allowing free access to their institutions.

The town has a picturesque setting of hills and valley, clothed with beautiful trees. On the Domain above the town are view points which overlook the country for miles around, and interesting walks may be found in any direction. As a holiday resort away from the bustle of the city, its popularity will increase as long as the present size and reputation of the town are maintained.



-A. Thomson, photo.

LAWRENCE 1911.

C O N C L U S I O N.

More than ~~fifty-nine~~^{sixty} years have passed since the sturdy pioneers first tramped over hill and gully to Tuapeka. Little thought was then taken, as they hastened to seek their fortunes, of the great part they were to play in making the history of New Zealand. Perhaps even now their importance is rarely realised. In the preceding pages their direct influence in the settlement of Tuapeka in general and of Lawrence in particular has been recorded. It would hardly be fair to conclude this history without summarising so far as hitherto revealed the part they have indirectly played in the progress of the Dominion and the welfare of its people.

In his official report of the Goldfields published in October 1862, just seventeen months after the discovery of gold in Gabriel's Gully, Vincent Pyke writes: "In a few months Otago was elevated from the position of a comparatively unknown settlement to the foremost rank among the provinces of New Zealand. In 1860 only 69 vessels were entered 'inwards'. In the following year 256 vessels, many of them of large tonnage, arrived at the Port. The population computed in December 1860 at 12,691, had increased by December 1861 to 30,269 souls. The revenue (provincial) advanced from £83,046 - the amount received for the financial year ending September 30th 1861 - to £280,097 in 1862; while a comparison between the half year ending 31st March 1861 (prior to the discovery of the Tuapeka Goldfield) and the corresponding period of 1862 shows an increase of £128,234 - the exact figures being:- In 1861. £33,509; and in 1862, £161,744." *

* "The History of Early Gold Discoveries in Otago". P. 47.

From the Blue Book giving the census returns, we learn that by 1864 the population of Otago (49,019) represented nearly a quarter of that of the whole Colony (172,158). That the increase was in goldminers is seen from the census statistics of 1861, where the numbers of men engaged in mining in Auckland, Nelson and Otago were respectively 22, 240 and 10,830. At this time, too, the mining population of the colony was calculated at 11.25 per cent. of the total population, that engaged in agricultural and pastoral industries at 7.54 per cent., and in mechanical work at 5.24 per cent..

In order to realise the great commercial value of the gold exported from Otago and New Zealand as a whole, it is necessary to consider the following Tables.

From Tuapeka "the amount of gold brought down by the escort for the first five months after Read's discovery was 203,483 ozs., valued at £762,961.

1862 -	331,633	ozs.	12	dwt.	-estimated value,	£1,243,623.
1863 -	565,661	"	1	"	"	2,121,229.
1864 -	393,964	"	2	"	"	1,477,365.

Thus, in three and three quarter years after the discovery of the goldfield, 1,699,667 ozs. of gold had passed through the Dominion Customs, and with 63,970 ozs. exported privately, a gross total of 1,763,637 ozs. of the estimated value of £3:17:6 per oz., of over £7,000,000, or an average of nearly £2,000,000 per year had been obtained.^x

From Otago the gold export^x was:

x Handbook of New Zealand Mines 1887.

* Blue Book Statistics.

1862	-	399,201	ozs.	of estimated value	£1,546,905.
1863	-	614,387	"	"	2,380,750.
1864	-	436,012	"	"	1,689,543.

From New Zealand the gold export was:-

1862	-	410,862	ozs.	of estimated value	£1,591,389.
1863	-	628,450	"	"	2,431,723.
1864	-	480,171	"	"	1,857,847.

It may thus be seen that, except for less than a hundred thousand ounces, practically the whole amount of gold exported from New Zealand during this period came from Tuapeka. In 1864 when the West Coast Goldfields were discovered the returns from Tuapeka decreased and with but occasional rises, e.g., when hydraulic sluicing, and again when dredging were introduced, - the decrease has been steadily apparent. In 1911, the Jubilee year, 16,820 ozs. were exported - value £67,832, and in 1919 4,050 ozs - value £16,635.

The miners on the Tuapeka Goldfield have made several important inventions and applied not a few novel methods in gold saving. It was J. R. Perry, who in 1880 at Gabriel's Gully first introduced the system of hydraulic sluicing and elevating - a system which has not yet been surpassed in the working of alluvial deposits. Two men at Waipori were the first to think of adapting water power to dredges, William O'Brien's scheme proving a decided success.

The far reaching fame of Tuapeka as a mining district in the early eighties may be deduced from the fact that M. Michael Shostak Chief Mining Engineer in Siberia, when sent by the Russian Government to inspect and report upon the different methods of mining employed in the principal mining communities of the world, visited Lawrence in 1884 for the express purpose of examining the hydraulic

sluicing and elevating plants at work in Gabriel's Gully.

The miners of Tuapeka were the first to agitate for definite instruction in the chemistry of minerals. This led to the establishment of Schools of Mines of which there are now seven in New Zealand. They have proved of great value in raising the standard of the miner while many students of ability have been enabled to prosecute their studies at the School of Mines in connexion with the University of Otago.

Owing to the lack of employment in Tuapeka for young people leaving school, Lawrence District High School has supplied the Dominion with a disproportionately large number of its civil servants. Among these may be named Wm. Crow, Secretary to the Prime Minister, J. McIntosh, Collector of Customs, Dunedin, and the Hon. G. J. Anderson recently appointed Cabinet Minister. Between seventy and eighty teachers who received their only training in the local school are today engaged in the work of education in various parts of the Dominion. Among the ex-pupils are several ministers of religion, and many medical men, the most distinguished of whom so far has been the late Dr. A. A. Martin, author of "A Surgeon in Khaki". In 1893 he entered the Civil Service in the Government Life Department; but too ambitious to remain, he took up the study of medicine and had a brilliant career at Edinburgh University. As a doctor he served in the Boer War, where he displayed wonderful talent and skill in surgery. Returning to New Zealand, he entered private practice in Palmerston North, where he soon made a name for himself. On the outbreak of the Great War, being again in England, he joined the British Medical Corps and did noble duty in France, where he died of wounds in 1916.

The thousands of people attracted to Tuapeka by the gold, brought great wealth to New Zealand. Need of food led to the speedy cultivation of the land; need of homes to various industries such as lumbering, brick-making and coal-mining, while need of clothes and implements led to the establishment of tradespeople and trade with Australia and England. The control of so many immigrants in all stations of life hastened government organisation, quickened legislation, and brought about the establishment of all kinds of institutions which might not have appeared within half a century. Many miners who had made fortunes, settled on the land, and employed their wealth in developing the resources of the country.

Though the people of today scarcely remember the time when gold mining held its once proud position of foremost industry in the Dominion, yet it provided undoubtedly the first few rungs in the ladder by which New Zealand has ascended to eminence in the British Empire, and this was largely the work of the noble band of pioneers on the Tuapeka Goldfield.

:--:--:-O-:--:--: