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ACCESS

MILFORD.

BELT RACE.

... LAND, Sunday.

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... ster were second ... o the Dominion ... Frankham, in ... am's time was ... was 54 1-5c., a ... gorous effort by ... to be runner- ... 20 yards. The ... y their exertions ... fternoon.

... RACE

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... er the mile and ... ing's time was ... gs were Haining ... ng 3. R. Adams ... starters were R. ... Owen, M. Fair- ... chards.

HUATOKI DOMAIN

NEW SWIMMING POOL

TENNIS COURTS.

THE OFFICIAL OPENING.

The concrete dam which was broken away at the Huatoki Domain in the floods some two years ago has been reconstructed to an amended plan, a much more substantial structure being provided, and the swimming pool is again available for use. Recently two concrete tennis courts were constructed at the Domain and a club has been formed with a membership of between 50 and 60 players. On Saturday afternoon the swimming pool and the tennis courts were officially opened by the Mayor, Mr. E. R. Gilmore, in the presence of quite a large crowd. Among those present were Councillors S. J. Smith (who is the Borough Council's representative on the Domain Board) and R. R. S. Richardson.

Mr. J. M. Thomson, president of the Domain Board and of the tennis club, expressed pleasure at seeing so many present and the hope that the board would have the sympathy and help of New Plymouth residents generally in its efforts to beautify the domain and provide further attractions for visitors. The Mayor said he was glad to associate himself with those public-spirited citizens whose efforts had resulted in this large domain, comprising just under 50 acres of the most beautiful virgin bush in New Zealand, being preserved for the people for all time. The leading spirit in having the park set aside for the people was Mr. G. W. Browne, who throughout his life had been imbued with a true civic sense and a strong desire to further in every possible way the welfare of New Plymouth and the district.

Service on Council.

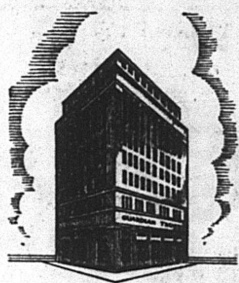
He was Mayor of the Borough for three years and a Borough Councillor for over nine years. His municipal activities were, however, only a part of his public work, and both on and off the council he had done much for the community in which he lived. Valuable though his other work had been, he believed that his greatest work, and one which would be more and more appreciated as the years went by, was the active part he had taken in acquiring for the people this domain.

Some time prior to 1922 the Crown purchased for subdivision 'a soldiers' settlement a large block of land known as the Saxton Estate. When the subdivision was made the Crown set aside the original Huatoki Domain, containing approximately 12½ acres of land and comprising a portion of the native bush. This, however, left the balance of the native bush to be sold for settlement. Had this been done a very large area of virgin bush would have been felled and the land used for farming purposes. This was where Mr. Browne was able to perform very valuable services. He brought the matter before the public and a strong agitation sprang up against the destruction of the bush. Finally he and other public-spirited citizens decided to guarantee to find the money some £350 to purchase a further 8½ acres of bush, the purchase money to be payable in instalments and the land to eventually become a scenic reserve vested in the Crown. He was also successful in inducing the Crown to set aside an additional area of just under ten acres as a scenic reserve and the New Plymouth Borough Council purchased a further 17½ acres. In this way the whole area of nearly 50 acres was preserved.

Support Given.

Although the main object was achieved the titles to the land, however, rendered administration unsatisfactory, part of the land being administered by the Huatoki Domain Board, part by the Huatoki Scenic Board and part by the Borough Council. The Domain Board was hampered by want of funds, but the people of Vogeltown and Frankleigh Park gave it great support not only financially but with their own personal labours. A park was laid out, a pavilion erected and a motor camp established. The Vogeltown School Committee took a hand, and it was mainly through its efforts that a concrete dam was constructed across the river and a very fine swimming pool established. Prominent in every effort to lay out and improve the domain was the late Mr. W. Bendall, and his association with the domain had been perpetuated by naming one of the paths through the native bush "Bendall's Walk."

The board carried on its good work for a number of years but as he had said before, its efforts were hampered by want of funds. The matter was brought to a climax when, in February, 1935, an abnormal storm and flood destroyed the dam of the swimming pool and did other damage. The board could not find the money to repair the damage and it was felt that the time had arrived for the Borough Council to take over the whole



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area. Protracted negotiations took place with the Government and finally it was arranged that the Borough Council should give the 17½ acres to the Crown and that the Crown should then declare the whole area of 50 acres to be a public domain and appoint the Borough Council to be a Domain Board to control it. This was done and the council in its turn had appointed a strong committee, consisting of residents of Vogeltown and Frankleigh Park to administer the domain. It had also provided the committee with funds to enable it to carry out its duties. Many improvements had been effected and amenities provided, and with a substantial contribution from the Vogeltown School Committee the swimming pool had been reinstated.

Tennis Courts.

The Council also lent to the committee just over £200 to construct the concrete tennis courts which were being opened. A tennis club was being formed and it was hoped that in due course funds would be raised to establish further tennis courts. Altogether the outlook for the domain was now much improved and with a representative and enthusiastic committee raising funds and seizing every opportunity to effect improvements it would not be long before the domain came into its own as one of the most important parks in the district. The reinstating of the swimming pool and the construction of the tennis courts would do much towards this end and it was with very great pleasure that he declared them both to be open to the public.

The Mayor and Councillor Smith then played a match with Messrs G. Moore and V. Hunter, members of the tennis club committee, each winning two games. The courts were fully occupied for the remainder of the afternoon with a Yankee tournament. Miss N. Moore was the winner of the ladies' section and Mr. H. Peel won the men's section.

At the swimming pool Mr. A. H. McLean controlled swimming races and diving competitions for the children and there were also numerous running events. The results of the swimming events were: 50 yards handicap, senior (over 12 years): Girls, D. Brooker 1, B. Hutchings 2; boys, G. Lees 1, P. Wilson 2; Junior: Girls, N. Smith 1, K. Biddle 2;

boys, M. Twomey 1, B. McLean 2; Plunger: Girls, senior, D. Brooker 1; Junior, N. Smith 1, K. Biddle 2; boys, senior, D. Butt 1, P. Wilson 2; Junior, B. McLean 1, G. McLean 2; Dive: Girls, D. Brooker 1, M. Lewis 2; G. Lees 1, B. McLean 2.

Afternoon tea arrangements were in charge of a ladies' committee consisting of Mesdames W. H. Broome, N. Allen, A. H. McLean, S. Smith, A. T. Moore, A. S. Allen, W. Bendall, and Miss L. A. Okey, and Mr. Newton-Allen had charge of a soft drinks and ice cream stall.

A cake guessing competition was won by Mrs. Newton-Allen.

General regret was expressed that Mr. P. S. Carroll, who had acted as secretary of the Domain Board for many years, was unable to be present and it was hoped that he would be speedily restored to health.

The success of the function was due to the efforts of the domain committee, Messrs. Thomson (chairman), N. Allen, L. Bellringer, T. Innes, M. James, A. T. Moore and S. R. Smith.

FOR CHINA MISSION

NEW PLYMOUTH PRIEST.

FAREWELL TO FATHER DOUGLAS.

Parishioners of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, New Plymouth, tendered a farewell last night to Father Douglas, the first secular priest in New Zealand to volunteer for the Chinese Mission field. Father Douglas, who was born at Johnsonville, will conclude two years' service at New Plymouth when he leaves to join the Far East missionary staff of the Church.

Father Minogue, who presided, stated he was sorry at losing an assistant and a splendid companion. Father Phillips spoke of Father Douglas' excellent work and speeches were also made by Mr. Morris (Holy Name Society and school committee), Mr. T. O'Connell (Hibernian Society), Mr. McCleave (St. Vincent de Paul Society and Boy Scouts), Mr. Leach (P. Faroy section of the parish), Mr. Manx (Debating Society) and Master Kuria (altar boys). In making the final speech Mr. Monaghan on behalf of the parish presented Father Douglas with a cheque.