

OBITUARY

MR. CHARLES SCORE SANDERS.

FOUNDER OF NGAERE GARDENS.

The death occurred this morning of Mr. Charles Score Sanders, Westport, at the age of 82. Mr. Sanders was born in March, 1851, at Marwood, Devonshire. His father came to New Zealand when Charles was only a few years old, and the rest of the family followed in the year '60. They came in the sailing vessel, Annie Longton, which arrived at Nelson after a slow passage. Here the Sanders family received their education. Charles, on completing his schooling, spent several years on the gold diggings at Collingwood, but though he contrived to make a comfortable living, was one of the hundreds who failed to "strike it rich."



Charles S. Sanders.

However, life on the gold diggings was not altogether satisfying to the then youthful Mr. Sanders, who always had an ambition to be a land-holder. With that end in view he came to Inglewood, where he took up 2000 acres of bush land on the Bristol Road in the Moa block. He was one of the first settlers in that district.

While there Charles heard of the arrival in Hawera of his elder brother Henry, from Nelson. Quixotically enough, he sold his farm and left for Hawera to meet his brother. The upshot of the reunion was that the brothers decided to take up land at Ngaere. Charles' first block was one of 65 acres—the very land on which the Ngaere Gardens now stand. The whole countryside was covered in dense bush, and no part of the district had been felled or in any way cleared. Two settlers on the block were a Mr. Hutchison and Mr. Cowan, an old Pijian planter who had come to New Zealand to settle with his wife and family. In the months succeeding the arrival of the Sanders brothers, a few other settlers began to penetrate into the area. Many of the present farmers of the district are the sons and grandsons of these pioneer settlers.

Home at Ngaere.

In 1881 Mr. Sanders conceived the plan of building for himself a beautiful home at Ngaere. With this end in view he started to build up what is now known as the Ngaere Gardens. After a long day's work on his land or under contract, he would come home in the evening and work through half the night by the light of a lantern. Sixteen hours per day was the usual thing during all the years Mr. Sanders was engaged in his work.

First of all a small creek which flowed through the property was dammed up, and the beautiful ornamental water, now a feature of the park, was gradually formed. From 1881 to 1890 Mr. Sanders continued his work, and the park grew steadily under his guiding hand. In the latter year, however, he leased the property and went with another pioneer settler, Mr. Arthur Walker, to America.

After 12 months he returned and took up again the work of beautifying his holding. He did a thriving business as a nurseryman, and also sold large quantities of fruit. Small fruits grew wonderfully well in the Ngaere district in those days, but, as the bush was cut back, the fruit began to deteriorate and became subject to blight.

In 1912 he left Ngaere and came to New Plymouth, where he selected an acre of open land at Dartmoor, and notwithstanding the exposed position, he soon turned it into one of the finest gardens in the district. Mr. Sanders was particularly interested in rhododendrons

and other choice flowering shrubs. In fact it is said that the Australian waratah and Christmas bells grown by him were much finer than anything grown in Australia, their native habitat. Two of his waratah trees last year produced over 250 blooms.

Successful Gardener.

Considering that Mr. Sanders was a self-taught horticulturist, it was most remarkable to see the success which he had in the propagation of choice shrubs by layering.

He was a most generous man, and hundreds of gardens in New Zealand contain plants grown and donated by him. His garden was always open to the public, and his greatest pleasure in life was to show some keen horticulturist over his beautiful grounds. His home was always open to his friends. Although he was unmarried he kept a most hospitable home and was an excellent housekeeper.

The passing of this fine pioneer, known to all leading horticulturists throughout the Dominion, is greatly regretted. However, he will be long remembered for his many gifts of choice plants to public and private gardens all over New Zealand.

Mr. Sanders leaves one brother, Mr. H. S. Sanders, Carrington Road, and one sister, Mrs. E. Johnston, St. Albans, Christchurch.

WARRANT OFFICER W. G. BAUER.

The death occurred at Wellington yesterday of Warrant Officer William George Bauer, aged 38, reports a Press Association message. He was a member of the permanent staff for 14 years, the last five of which were spent at the headquarters training depot, Trentham.

WEST INDIAN CRICKETERS

MATCH WITH WORCESTERSHIRE.

United P.A.—Electric Telegraph—Copyright.
(Received 1.10 a.m.)

LONDON, May 31.

West Indies in the first innings against Worcestershire made 239 (Hoad 80 not out). Worcestershire in the first innings lost four wickets for 58.

CORRESPONDENCE

We are not responsible for views expressed by correspondents. The writer's name, as a guarantee of good faith, must be enclosed in the letter.

THE POUND SCHEME.

To the Editor,

Sir,—In answer to Mr. Stainton's reply to my letter of the 27th inst. let me state firstly that if my capacity in an honourable union is offensive to the above gentleman I shall stand on my own. My desire to help may have blinded me to the way Mr. Stainton would have me go, but I do not think he need bring up all his heavy artillery and hand grenades, etc. I fancy my intelligence is such that I can fully appreciate the splendid work of the various associations. The Pound Scheme was not being criticised by me, but the rationing. By their own admission supplies are inadequate. Their work past and present is, as I and all intelligent people are aware, wonderful. Those who have partaken, I daresay, could readily substantiate this, but my plea was for those who have not partaken through over-modesty or, like myself, unaware as to the way of sharing any benefits which the press notices are being given. Fortunately for myself I am not one of the unemployed, but unfortunately I am not "Lady Dalfunkus MacGregor." Thanking you, sir, for your space.—I am, etc.,

IRIS O'DONNELL.

MAIL NOTICE.

Friday, June 2.—For Fiji, Tonga, Apla, Pago Pago, Hawaiian Islands and Panning Island; also specially addressed correspondence for Japan, Canada, United States of America, Mexico, West Indies, Great Britain, Ireland and Europe (due London June 25), per Monterey from Auckland. Letters only close 12.45 p.m.; late fee 1 p.m. Newspapers and books 6 a.m.

Saturday, June 3.—For Great Britain, Ireland and Europe (specially addressed correspondence only), Pitcairn Island, Central America and South American Western States, via Panama per Ionic from Wellington. Close 7.15 a.m.; parcels Thursday, June 1, at 5 p.m. Due London July 14.

Wednesday, June 7.—For Australian States, South Africa and East (per Wanganella from Wellington), at 12.45 p.m. Late fee 1 p.m. Parcels close Monday, June 5, at 5 p.m.

Friday, June 9.—For Fiji, Tonga, Apla and Pago Pago (per Waipahi from Auckland), at 12.45 p.m. Late fee 1 p.m.

Monday, June 12.—For Great Britain, Ireland, Europe, Canada and United States of America, via San Francisco; also Cook Islands and Tahiti per R.M.S. Makura from Wellington. Close 12.45 p.m.; late fee 1 p.m. Parcels for Cook Islands, Tahiti, Canada and United States of America close Thursday, June 8, at 5 p.m. Money orders Saturday, June 10, at 11 a.m. Due London July 11.

W. G. COOPER,
Chief Postmaster.