

**REMARKABLE PICTURE
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
BEAUTIFUL MARQUETRY WORK**

A remarkably fine piece of marquetry work has just been completed by Mr. A. Brake, of New Plymouth, who is 81 years of age. It is a faithful picture of St. Mary's Church in inlaid woods, nearly all the timber used being from New Zealand native trees.

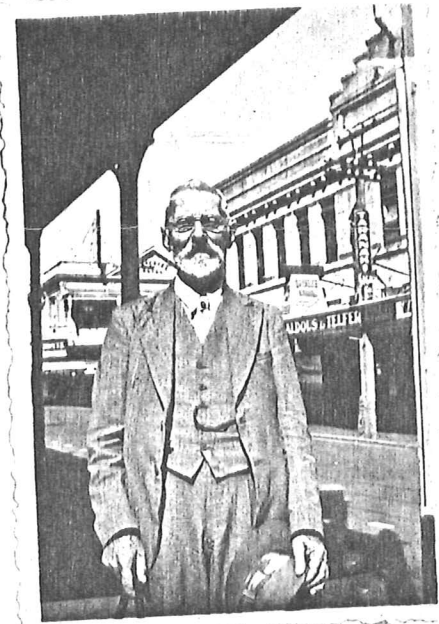
The work is 15 inches long by 10 inches high and it depicts the historic building from the north-western aspect. Inlay is a form of wood decoration which is rarely practised to-day and attempts to portray buildings by this process are not often successful. However, in this case Mr. Brake has captured the stateliness of St. Mary's in a wonderful manner. Not only are the architectural features in true perspective but the puriri trees and the wall in the foreground and even the sky with cloud effects are all given their true value.

HISTORY IN WOOD.


There is history too in the wood which has been used. The back of the work is a fine piece of kauri which for many years was in the warehouse of Messrs, Arch. Clark and Sons in Currie Street, recently demolished. Three woods not native to New Zealand have been introduced, chiefly because of their colour values. Willow forms the sky and the sweep of the grain gives the outlines of driven clouds. Ebony, for its intense black, and jarrah of an unusual brown, also appear in their appropriate places. To represent the stonework of the church rewarewa proves a fine medium and the roof of slate is done in rata.

Pukatea, of varied shades, towhai, lancewood and mangeho are other native timbers comprising the hundreds of tiny pieces which have gone to the composition of this picture but most remarkable is the use which has been made of totara knots. Artistic selection has made of these the foliage of the puriri trees in front of the church and the effect is very striking.

The finished picture is a fine achievement of minute and delicate work.



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