

ANCE
VANCES
EME
DECREASE

GIFT TO PEOPLE

BURGESS PARK OPENED

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OFFICIATES

TRIBUTE TO GENEROSITY OF DONORS

EXAMPLE TO BE EMULATED

Although no doubt the rain during the morning and afternoon interfered with the attendance, there was a large and representative gathering of citizens at Burgess Park, Mangorei, yesterday afternoon, when the property, formerly the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess, and known as "Hapurunui," was formally handed over by Mr. and Mrs. Burgess to the Mayor of New Plymouth as a trust for the people of the district, and then officially opened by his Excellency the Governor-General, Viscount Galway.

In handing the deeds of the property over to the Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, Mr. Burgess said it was a great pleasure to Mrs. Burgess and himself to hand the place over as a trust for the people of the district. Although it was now known as Burgess Park, he liked the name of "Hapurunui," which he understood meant the sound of rushing waters, and those present would appreciate the appropriateness of the name by the sound of the waters which could be heard where the gathering was taking place. Mr. Burgess recited the resolution under which the gift was accepted by the borough, which imposed only one condition and that was that it was to be kept up and maintained for the benefit of the people of the district. The council had cheerfully undertaken that condition and he knew the present and future councils would faithfully observe that condition.

CONFIDENT OF APPRECIATION.

As Mr. Burgess placed the title-deeds in the hands of the Mayor he said he did so in the hope and with the confidence that the gift would be appreciated by the people of the district and by others who might visit the park. He also said that he felt some gratification that the negotiations for the transfer and acceptance of the property had been so pleasantly completed.

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Mr. S. G. Smith, M.P., said he was deputed to speak for the people of the district he represented in Parliament, which was a wider community than that of the borough to which the gift had been made. He also said that he had had made to him by friends all over the country and by many persons in Wellington expressions of appreciation of the magnificent gift that had been made to New Plymouth. Many of them would like to have been present to testify to the warmth of their appreciation of such generosity and to their affection for Mr. and Mrs. Burgess. Words were inadequate for the expression of appreciation and really all that could be said to the donors was: "Thank you for this beautiful gift."

"We celebrate to-day," he said, "the handing over of this gift in the presence of the representative of his Majesty the King, and on behalf of the people whom I represent I say thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Burgess for their generous gift."

WELFARE OF TOWN AT HEART.

The Governor-General said it was a great pleasure for him to undertake the opening ceremony in connection with such a splendid park which had just been formally handed over to the people of New Plymouth by two of its most esteemed residents.

"They have," said his Excellency, "on other occasions during their long residence in New Plymouth given ample evidence that they have the welfare of the town much at heart. Mr. Burgess rendered splendid service as your Mayor during the critical war years and during that time both he and Mrs. Burgess took an active part in caring for New Zealand's soldiers both before the men left for the front and after their return. Only this morning, when I visited the returned soldiers' plot at the cemetery, I had an opportunity of learning of Mrs. Burgess' interest in New Zealand's gallant dead.

"There I saw the graves that had been wonderfully cared for—the thoughtful and patriotic work of Mrs. Burgess. During the war years no one knew better than Mr. and Mrs. Burgess the exacting nature of the duties required of them as Mayor and Mayoress, and you people of New Plymouth know better than I do how well they played their parts. For many years respected residents of your community, they have to-day demonstrated in a most practical way their appreciation of the beautiful town in which they live. It is my belief that they could not have made a gift more acceptable to the town."

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