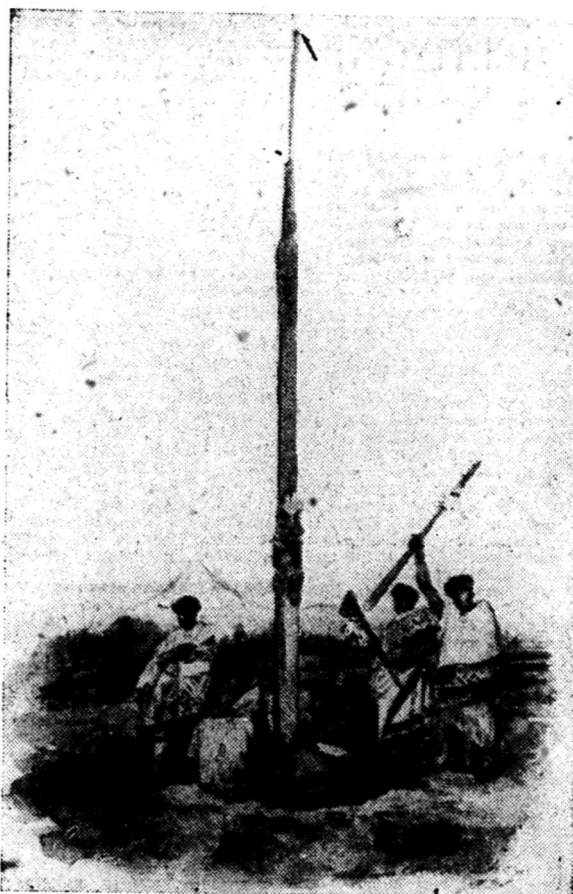


THE ORIGINAL FITZROY POLE



PAINTING OF THE "FITZROY POLE" recalls the history of the original pole, erected by the Maoris in 1844 to mark the boundary beyond which no white settlement was to be made. (See story on this page.)

CLEAN UP FOR "FITZROY POLE"

IMPROVED APPEARANCE FOR ROYAL VISIT

New Plymouth's historic "Fitzroy pole" at the junction of Smart Road and Devon line is to be spruced up for the Royal tour next month, the works committee of the New Plymouth City Council has decided. The pole, which was erected in 1844, is at present showing signs of wear and is to receive a helping of paint.

The pole's history dates back more than 100 years. In 1844, Mr. William Spain, Queen's Commissioner adjudicating on land claims in the New Plymouth district, gave his decision confirming the purchase of 60,000 acres by the Plymouth Company. This decision was promptly quashed by Governor Fitzroy, completely staggering the young settlement and making real the hitherto fancied antagonism between the races.

The Maoris thereupon erected the "Fitzroy pole," marking the boundary beyond which no settlement was to be made by pakehas. It consisted of a puriri shaft about 30 feet long, on which was carved two life-sized figures, representing the triumphant Maori dancing on a limp and dejected pakeha.

During the Maori War, gorse grew up thickly around the pole and eventually caught fire, during which the pole fell to the ground. In the early 70s, the keeper of a toll-gate, which was erected at that point, succumbed to temptation and chopped the pole up for firewood.

The formal re-erection of a new totem pole took place in 1940 after considerable controversy.

Salvation Army's Tribute to Envoy Buick

"With his passing from the scene of his earthly labours there ends a life-time of unique Christian service," said Major C. H. Morley, officer-in-charge of the Salvation Army at New Plymouth, paying a tribute this afternoon to the late Envoy Stephen Buick.

Envoy Buick was all his life a free-lance Salvationist, and being free from any particular official responsibility, was able to devote his whole life to the kind of service he loved, said Major Morley. In his early years he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour, and for over 70 years he has faithfully served Him.

"The high place he has held in the affections and esteem of the people of Taranaki was won because of his unflagging zeal for the cause he loved," said Major Morley. "In the ranks of the Salvation Army, as amongst the citizens of this province, he leaves a place which no other person will take."

"During recent months, while he has been bed-ridden, I have had the closest contact with him, and while his physical powers were steadily failing, his faith in his God was unwavering, and particularly in recent weeks he expressed the longing to end his long pilgrimage, and enter the presence of the King," Major Morley said.

"Soldier of Christ, well done!
"Rest from thy loved employ;
"And while eternal ages run,
"Rest in thy Master's joy."

"On behalf of all Salvationists, I would express to the Hospital Board, the medical superintendent and staff, the matron