HISTORY OF THE MOHS

Growth of Agricultural Society YEARS HAVE

PASSED

ECOLLECTIONS OF DAYS. THE EARLY

Although the Taranaki Agricultural Society is this year celebrating its jiffilee it is rather an open question whether it should not have done so four years ago. There was, as a matter of fact, a Taranaki Agricultural Society in existence some time before 1870, but it became defunct in 1873. Its field of operations was in the coastal district to the south of New Plymouth, Omata being its headquarier at the Hun Village, operated on that side of the town. On June 24, 1872, the Bell Block Society, with its headquarters at the Hun Village, operated on that side of the town. On June 24, 1872, the Bell Block Society, with its headquarter at the Hun Village, operated on that side of the town. On June 24, 1872, the Bell Block Society, with its headquarter that of the Year and the Taranaki Agricultural Society, and shortly afterwards it became known as the Taranaki Agricultural Society, as the Taranaki Agricultural Society, as such, completed its fiftieth year in July, 1924, and is now about to hold its fifty-second annual show.

The first show held under the present name was, as already stated, held on December 2, 1874, at Bell Block. The president Mr. F. A. Carrington, the vice-president Mr. F. A. Carrington, the vice-president Mr. F. A. Carrington, the vice-president Mr. Bell Block. The president Mr. F. A. Carrington, the vice-president Mr. H. D. Vavasour was appointed in his place. We have in our possession the minute book, methodically kept by Mr. Connett, of the society. Mr. J. B. Connett, who had been secretary of the Bell Block and Northern in our possession the minute book, methodically kept by Mr. Connett, of the society meetings from June 24, 1872, to May 14, 1874.

Assuming that the 1874 show was the first, it is interesting to recall the prize list, which was as follows:—

CLASS A.—HORSE STOCK.

Judges: Messrs. Good, Harley, and

Judges: Messrs. Good, Harley, and Jury.

Blood Entries.—Mr. W. F. Hoskin's Buckstone 1, Mr. W. Elliot's Waitara 2.

Draught Entries.—Mr. G. H. Sampson's Clyde 1.

Blood Mares.—Mr. W. F. Hoskin's black mare 1, Mr. G. Rundle's bay mare 2.

Draught Mares.—Mr. S. Andrews' bay Clydesdale 1, Mr. Hoskin's commended.

Blood Colts.—Mr. J. Hanner

mended.

Blood Colts.—Mr. J. Honeyfield's 1.

CLASS B.—CATTLE.

Judges: Messrs. C. Waller, W. Hicks,
and J. Rossiter.
Shorthorn Bulls.—Mr. J. Elliot's
Barometer 1.

Hereford Bulls.—Mr. W. F. Hoskin's
Duncan Cameron 1.

Crossbred Bulls.—Mr. A. J. Hoskin's
1.

Hereford Cows.—Mr. J. Elliot's 1.
Hereford Cows.—Mr. W. F. Hoskin's
1 and highly commended.
Crossbred Cows.—Mr. J. B. Connett's
1, Mr. T. Greenway's highly commended.

CLASS Messrs. C .- SHEEP.
Hicks, Oxenham, and

Judges: Messrs. Hicks, ...

Jonas.
Leicester Rams.—Mr. G. V. Tate's I, Mr. G. Sampson's 2.
Lincoln Rams.—Mr. A. J. Hoskin's I, Mr. W. F. Hoskin's 2. (It was mentioned that Mr. A. J. Hoskin purchased his ram at the show two years previously for £35.)

Two-tooth Rams, any breed.—Mr. T. Western's I, Mr. R. Street's highly

Leicester Ewes (pen of ten).—Mr. A.
J. Hoskin's 1, Mr. W. F. Hoskin's 2,
Mr. J. B. Connett's commended.
Lincoln Ewes (pen of ten).—Mr. T.
Western's 1.
Two-tooth Ewes (pen of ten, any breed).—Mr. W. F. Hoskin's 1, Mr. J.
B. Connett's highly commended.
CLASS D.—PIGS.
Judges: Messrs. Waller, Rossiter, and Hicks.
Boar, any breed.—Mr. G. V. Tate's Berkshire 1.
Sow, and breed.—Mr. J. B. Connett's mended. 田

Judges.—Mossrs. H. J. Honeyfield and T. Hirst.

Best Five Fleeces.—Mr. W. F. Hoskin's, 1.

CLASS E.—SHEEP SHEARING.

Longes.—Messrs. T. Veale, M. Jonas and D. Bayly.

Competitors to catch and shear one ram and one ewe and tie up the fleeces.—G. Sampson, time 61min., 1; E. George, time 76min., 2.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner was held in the evening, to which about 50 sat down, Mr. B. C. Lawrence, of Wantara, being the caterer. His Honour the Superintendent presided and Mr. T. Kelly, A short toast list was submitted and the show prizes were presented.

ST. GERMAIN SQUARE GROUNDS.

SPACE SOON OUTGROWN.

on April 21, 1875, a meeting of members was held at the Taranaki Institute (the Soldiers' Club building) for the purpose of deciding upon the most with the purpose of deciding upon the most with Mr. James Rattenbury (vice-president) took the chair and announced that the Provincial Government had most liberally offered to hand over to the society St. Germain Square (an area of land one and a half acres in extent situated between Eliot, Gill and Molesworth Streets, upon a part of which the Coronation Hall now stands).

On the motion of Mr. J. T. Upjohn, seconded by Mr. John Andrews, it was resolved that the offer be accepted. The land was therefore duly vested in the society, which held its shows there was made to the racecourse. There shows were held uninterruptedly until 1883, when the sow had outgrown the available space and a move was made to the racecourse. There was made to the racecourse. There had a more and a court of the Waiwakaiho were used for the first time on land acquired from the Government in exchange for a part of the grounds at St. Germain Square were obtained from Captain Gibson's farm on the Smart Road.

MR. JAMES RATTENBURY'S STORY.

The late Mr. J. Rattenbury, a the course of a chat with a Herald reporter or some time before his death, concerning the early days of the society, said it started at Bell Block in a very test and the settlers themselves, but all were heart and soul in the movement, and it was not so much the amount of subscription they paid, but rather the amount of labour they gave that made the project a success.

Originally they started with a ploughing association, and in conjunction with this they also field sheep-shearing competitions. These ventures proved successful, and eventually they were persuaded by the people in the southern end of the district to transfer the headquarters to New Plymouth, and instead of the Bell Block Agricultural Association they had a provincial Agricultural Society.

Mr. J. B. Connett and himself were later elected members of the Provincial Council, positions they held until the Council was abolished, and they interested themselves in the direction of procuring a site for agricultural show purposes. They interviewed the executive of the Council, including Major Atkinson, Mr. A. Standish and others on the matter, and met with a very favourable reception, their application resulting in St. Germain Square being handed to the society as a free gift.

Mr. J. B. Connett was serietary, and continued Mr. Rattenbury, favourable reception, their application the position for some years, and when he resigned Mr. J. C. Davies was appointed his successor. Some very successful shows were held at St. Germain Square. We hadn't the Jerseys you have to-day, but we had other cattle, notably Shorthorns and Ayrasour and J. Elliot were men who spent a lot of money on Shorthorn the show so far as pedigree cattle were

A. Continuing. Mr. Rattenbury said the late Mr. W. K. Hulke, who was well known to the older residents of the district, did more towards laying the foundations of dairying in Taranaki by introducing the Jersey than any other man had ever done. For years the late Mr. Hulke advocated the separator and Jersey cattle. He was a very progressive man, and rendered great service to the district as a dered great service to the Agricultural Society. To look back to those early days and compare them with to-day, one could hardly credit the progress that had been made. 'In this connection,' added Mr. Rattenbury, 'we older members of the society will never forget the help so unstintingly given by the late Mr. W. H. J. Seffern, both personally and per medium of the Taranaki Herald, of which he was editor. No man could have displayed more interest in the society, and the late Mr. Henry Weston, too, was always awfully good to us and treated the society very generously.''

MR. G. V. TATE'S

RECOLLECTIONS.

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as cashed first and he successfully boarded the train again, but Mr. Rattenbury was not so fortunate, and he was left behind. His horse had gone on, of course, and there being no other means of getting through Mr. Rattenbury had no alternative but to set out and walk on the sleepers all the way from Inglewood to Ngaere. 'It was pouring with rain all the way,' said Mr. Rattenbury, 'so that I was wet through and covered with mud before I got through to Ngaere, confident that if it was at all yossible to get through, his comrade would do so.

It was just about dusk when Mr. Rattenbury did reach Ngaere and then these two hardy young settlers set out on their horses, reaching Manutahi late that night.

'We stayed at the hotel that night. 'We stayed at the hotel that night. 'Said Mr. Tate, 'but it was a rough sort of pub. I can tell you. The place was full of Europeans and Maoris, and they all appeared to be drunk. Tired as we were, there was no such thing as sleep for us that night, and away we went early next morning on the conviuding stage of our journey.'

THE QUALITY OF THE STOCK.

When asked what the Leattle and sheep were like in those days, both Mr. Tate and Mr. Rattenbury were enthusiastic as to their quality. There were some very fine sheep, particularly thad and while they had not the Jersey they had a splendid lot of Shorthorn cattle, bred for generations purely for dairy purposes. Introduced and crossed with them.

MR. JOHN ANDREWS RECALLS

d the Agricultural Society in its early days, though not one of those who or granised the first shows at Bell Block. As a member of the Provincial Council he was concerned in the setting aside of St. Germain Square as the show-ground and he recalls that then, in the early seventies, it was practically as much in the country as the Waiwa-enected around the square by the Gorerment to provide shelter for settlers and their families who were driven the time the first show was held.

Active membership of the society in those days was lable to entail more hardship than it does now. Mr. Andrews recalls that he used to ride into town from Huirangi to attend meetings at might. This was all right in summer, but at other times of the year the horse would have to plod through because only 40 feet wide instead of the claim width which later surveys provided for roads, and, being level, it cut up badly under the traffic very made the chapel was particularly bad because only 40 feet wide instead of the claim width which later surveys provided for roads, and, being level, it cut up badly under the traffic very mouth which later surveys provided for roads, and, being level, it cut up badly under the traffic very mouth was not the occasion for a family outing for country people. For one thing there were not the side-shows and other amusements to attract women and children, who would not be interested merely in the stock, and the difficulty of transport was great. Bullock drays to carry him. The gentleman is still living in New Pymouth and no doubt was suffering from a sprained knee and and ralls made the fences, and particularly and the side show; and brief and the packed to hire a bullock-dray to expected that the showground would be expected that the showground would be and the side of the variation for those conditions to shelter the animals were not be shown and Mr. Andrews feels satisfied up at all lavishy. Spit posts and the place of the variation for those conditions to shelter the animals were the conditions of the stock

OBITUARY

B. ROY.

howground regarding the pedigree of ulls, a newspaper controversy fol-wed, and from then onwards interest the subject continued to grow stead-

in the subject continued to grow steadily.

The payment of the subscription to the Agricultural Society was no trifling matter in the days when farming gave so little profit that many a man who went to town had to go home before he could have a meal, because lacking money with which to pay for one. The original subscription was 55 per annum, and much discussion took place before a decision was made to increase the rate to 10s. It was argued that a guinea subscription would put the society in a position to carr out some improvements to its grounds, but Mr. Andrews and other opponents of the suggestion were able to show that the advantage would be lost through a very considerable decrease in the member-

BETTING CASES

Complaint Procedure Against

C. W. Ansford and Wm. E. Smyth in the Magistrate's Court on Wednesday in the Magistrate's Court on Wednesday in the Gaming Act, Mr. A. A. Bennett, who appeared for the defendants, said and properly of the major offence of bookmaking, upon which they were entitled to trial by jury, several summary charges had been laid against the major offence before the hearing of the more serious charge. This, he said, would make void their right to a trial before a jury of their fellow-citizens. Counsel said he had learned it scened the course proposed by the police was unprecedented. In order to prove the charge of bookmaking, the prosecution would with the processing the benefit of the order the more offences were proceeded with the processing with the processing the benefit of the rivillege, and do not thing that would embarras the decarding the benefit of that privilege, and do not thing that would a make would with the processing would multity their privilege of trial by jury. Surabed with the proposed to be followed was the benefit of that privilege, and do not thing that would embarras the decarding the benefit of that privilege, and do not thing that would embarras the decarding the benefit of that privilege, and do not thing that would embarras the decarding that the proposed to be followed was the benefit of that privilege, and do not the benefit of that privilege, and do not the benefit of the prosecution, said the course proposed to be followed was the benefit of that privilege, and do not the benefit of that privilege, and do not the summer of the proceed on the summer of the province of the summer o

INGLEWOOD COUNTY

Meeting of Council

The monthly meeting of the Inglewood County Council was held at Inglewood on Tuesday, Councillor R. Stuart presiding. Others present were: Councillors A. Cowley, J. Young, H. Jones, E. A. Laurence, R. Grieve, E. O'Sullivan, J. Hunter and D. Brown.

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The county engineer (Mr. C. Clarke) is reported for the month as follows:—

East Riding.—Some 50 cubic yards of metal have been spread on the Autawa Road. R. Zimmermann has made a beginning with his two contracts on the Otaraoa Road, and alleracts on the Chang, Mangotea, Radapiko and Tariki Road.

North Riding.—Road over all the weaker the present time, and provision should be present time, and provision should be the present time, and provision should be present time, and provision should be provided the present time, and provision should be provided the present time, and provision should be provided the present time, and provision should be provided to the present time, and provision should be provided to the present time, and provision should be provided to the present time, and provision should be provided to the present time, and provision should be provided to the present time. In the metal in the provision should be provided to the present time, and provision should be provided to the present time. In the provision should be provided to have a forty available in about a week's time. In the provision should be provided to have a forty available to the provision should be completed and subtract the end. West Riding.—The lower portion of the West Riding.—The lower portion of the provision should be completed within the western pier and a butment have been concreted. The contractor is at present excavating for the pier on the eastern bank. All the press are one and all provision should be pressed to the pression of the pres

A memorandum from the Association of New Zealand Chambers of Commerce expressing alarm at the increase in local body indebtedness was received.

The chairman and Councillor Jones were appointed to represent the council on a deputation consisting of representatives of the North Taranaki founcy Councils, which it is proposed shall wait on the Minister of Agriculture (the Hon. O. J. Hawken) when he visits New Plymouth.

A petition was presented by a number of Kaimata farmers asking the council to take action in the matter of compelling a farmer in their vicinity to clear his land of ragwort, which was a menace to the surrounding district.—Steps will be taken to see that the complaint is remedied and the property cleared of noxious weeds.

The Public Works Department adden granted the council as follow—tead that maintenance subsidies had been granted the council as follow—tead, £1404 0s 10d.

It was resolved to expend the ballance of the money available for the Autawa Road, and tenders will be called for the work.

On the motion of Councillor Cowley it was decided to let a contract for 50 yards of metal from the Mangonui pit for maintenance on the Tariki

Fourteen ratepayers petitioned the council to tar-seal the Mangonui bridge, as the metal patching had proved inefficient and the surface quickly broke up.—The work will be carried out, and the approaches for a short distance on each side of the bridge will be sealed.

Contracts are to be let for 600 yards of metal for the Dudlay Road, and the Maketawa bridge, subject to the approval of the Highways Board.

Nineteen applications were received for the position of county engineer, and the appointment was considered in committee.

With regard to the York Road larvorks, the engineer was authorised to approach Mr. Ball to see what could be done.

The chairman referred to the delay in the completion of the houses that are being erected for the employees. He pointed out that £23 7s 4d in interest charges was accumulating on the would have to be added to the cost of the rent.—It was resolved to write to the architect on the position, pointing out that the penalty must be inflicted within fourteen days.

Application for permission to move his boundary fence to the edge of the road on Upland Road (Egmont Village) was made by Mr. W. J. Guildford.—It he engineer.

BRITISH TRADE

In Australia and New Zealand

The importance of the New Zealand and Australian markets to British industry was stressed by Mr. R. W. Dallin ton, senior British Trade Commissioner in Australia, who arrived from Sydney by the Manugamu to take charge of the New Zealand post pending the arrival in April of Mr. L. B. Beale, the Commissioner appointed that, in view of the importance of New Zealand to British exporters the Imperial Government was anxious that the Dominion eshould not be neglected during the period between Mr. Elmslie's departure and the arrival of Mr. Beale. The people of New Zealand and of Australia, to, hardly realised how important these countries were to British trade, and in both New Zealand and Australia, the trade was so very highly organised and appecialised that British manufacturers were keen to hold and extend it. This trade from many aspects was very popular, and one of its features was that had debts were quite unnecessary.

In answer to a question as to where the British trade was increasing in the trade death of the period between the British industries. In actual preceditive polatics, but it was British industries was that and debts were quite unnecessary popular, and the effect of limiting trade in British goods rather than in foreign ponds, not because there was a desire the established and growing Australian industries. In actual practice he had found that British manufacturers were slowing a very live desire to look after their Australia and New Zealand was referred to with some and for the British motor cars in Australia, in English motor cars in Australia and found that British cars were mot satisfaction by Mr. Dalton, who said that, while the impression had been stiffed to colonial conditions, he had became capable of more absorption. In the ready reduction in the price of the past is monthly with a manufacturer is well and popularity. He felt that this view had been imported to Australia, a very grate and the safety of the fast of the fature of gaulity, sales were steadily monnthen of the past of the past o

on Monday night of Mr. John Borton Roy. The late Mr. Roy, who was 71 years of age, had resided in New Plymouth a respect and esteem of a very wide eircle of friends.

He was born at Trentham in 1855 and was educated at the Otago Boys High was developed in 1876, when residing in Nelson, he was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court and Later moved to Haws ended a practice of the Supreme Court and Later moved to Haws when residing in Nelson, he was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court and Later moved to Haws with Mr. William Halse, which continued until the latter's death. In 1979 he commend a practice in New Plymouth and anterest in 1908 with Mr. William Halse, which continued until the latter's death. In 1903 Mr. F. E. Wilson, the present Mayor of New Plymouth Every and the strength of practice on his own account a partnership was dissolved and after a further period of practice on his own account a partnership was formed in 1908 with Mr. J. C. Nicholson, and this was not broken until Mr. Roy's retiremation in the late Mr. Hoy always manifested a keen and practical interest in public effected Mayor, and held office until the late Mr. Hoy always manifested a keen and practical interest in public elected Mayor, and held office until 1897, when he was defeated by Mr. E. Wiley, another member of the hands of the following year. In 1889, heven the following year. In 1889 he was again elected Mayor, and held office until 1897, when he was defeated by Mr. E. Wiley, another member of the board, and of the position of the money kept for Taranaki and a topation of the moment of the Monuakura Hiver, had one of the Mr. Roy was general bands in Mr. Roy was elected Mayor, and held office in the following year. In 1889, he was chairman of the board, When the Hon. T. Kelly, another member of the board, and the money kept for Taranaki and a topation of the money kept for Taranaki and a portion of the inception of the scheme in the early mineties. He was a past president to the position

MR. SAMUEL B

The death occurred at the New Plymouth Hospital on Monday night of Mr. Samuel Brookes, an old and respected resident of New Plymouth. The late Mr. Brookes was born at Wellingland, in 1848, and was therefore 78 years of age. He came out to New Zeahand over 50 years ago in the sailing ship Waikato and settled in New Plymouth, where he has resided ever since. He was of a quiet retiring disposition. His chief interest outside his work and his home lay in the activities of the Agricultural Society, of which he had been a member for many years. When dog shows were held in conjunction with the stock shows he was a regular exhibitor and he has always been a constant exhibitor at the poultry, pigeon and canary shows. He was a very prominent breeder of fancy pigeons some years ago and latterly his hobby has been canaries. Although not holding any office he had always taken an interest in the work of the Citizens' Band. Mr. Brookes is survived by two sons, Messrs. John Brookes (Trankton) and P. Brookes (Wellington), and four daughters, Miss A. Brookes (New Plymouth), Mrs. W. Hond (New Plymouth), Mrs. W. Hond (New Plymouth), Mrs. W.