

SEAFRONT WALK

CARE OF ESPLANADE WORTH MORE ATTENTION

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People who frequent, or even visit occasionally, the New Plymouth esplanade, which skirts the seafront from the Terminus Hotel to the Weymouth Street approach to Kawaroa Park, as a pleasant route for a walk to the park or the municipal baths, or who like to bask in the sunshine while they sit overlooking the wide expanse of the North Taranaki Blight, are agreed that this small area of the borough is worth more attention than it has been receiving lately.

A visit this morning convinced a Taranaki Herald reporter that complaints which have been voiced are not without some justification. The pathway is in a fair state of repair, and perhaps with the annual tarring and sanding of footpaths that is at present being carried out by the borough this thoroughfare may share in the new dressing that pedestrian ways are receiving.

The general appearance of the esplanade, however, is that of a somewhat dilapidated area, as if it were the cinderella of the many little localities in the borough that might be made more attractive, and even a place of beauty. Time was when there were many seats along this seafront walk and while to-day there are a few left they look like derelicts. They are very much the worse for wear, or perhaps the weather, and of the four which are placed between the overhead railway bridge and the foot of Dawson Street, one is without a back, and being affixed to the ground cannot be moved back so that the fence might be made use of in lieu of a back to the seat. Beyond this section of the walk, along the stretch between Dawson Street and Weymouth Street, where there used to be several seats in more shaded situations, there are now no seats.

SEATS AND FOUNTAIN.

The visit suggested that a few more seats could with advantage be placed along this pleasant route and if the old seats were re-dressed with a coat of paint—or several coats—they could be made to match new seats and all help to make the place more attractive.

The memorial fountain at the foot of Dawson Street could also do with a refurbishing, and perhaps it would not be amiss if it were allowed to fulfil its original purpose, as a drinking fountain. At present it is as dry as the desert and simply does not "fount."

There has been some attempt, quite recently, to chip away the weeds from either edge of the pathway, and this has certainly made some improvement in its appearance. Until the Railway Department can be induced to do something on their side of the boundary fence, however, the prospect from the esplanade will never reach a maximum of pleasantness. Inside the railway boundary there is an overgrowth of weed which completely nullifies any effect that might be obtained by the cleaning up within the borough boundary. The boundary fence along part of the way is in a sad state. Several parts require replacing. They are there but are in recumbent positions, and the wires have all sagged and look in a tired way, which adds to the appearance of neglect.

There has been some cutting of grass at the corner past the Honeyfield fountain, but the plot adjoining it, which is planted with pohutukawa and other trees, is smothered in ugly undergrowth where once was a tidy area in which seats were placed under the shade of the trees. Altogether the esplanade, which might be an attractive and picturesque walk, has been allowed to fall into a state which can be described as little better than an eyesore. It will be a pity if something is not done to remedy this condition before the influx of visitors during the holiday season.