

PARK IN THE MAKING.

THE DOMAIN AT THE PORT.

ANOTHER AREA FOR PLAY.

POSSIBILITIES OF FUTURE.

Ngamotu Park, or, as it is more familiarly known, Ngamotu Domain, was officially opened on Saturday afternoon. A strong westerly wind did not contribute to pleasant out-of-door conditions, but there was a very good attendance of the public, who congratulated the committee on the work already accomplished and wished them well in their pioneering work in providing an attractive breathing place in an area which is destined in the next few years to become closely built upon. That part of the park which has already been laid out in paths, gardens and shrubs was further decorated with flags, while the Citizens' Band, from a leaf-garnished rotunda, entertained the visitors with music. The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor (Mr. F. E. Wilson), who was accompanied by several members of the borough council. The official visitors also included Mr. C. E. Bellringer, M.P. Mrs. Wilson was made the recipient of a very pretty bouquet.

The chairman of the park committee (Mr. W. H. Fitzpatrick) extended a welcome to the visitors and then called on Mr. Wilson. The Mayor recalled that they were assembled on ground which happily had been saved from the purpose for which it was originally set aside, a prison site. In the early days it had been the intention of the Government to erect there the main prison for the North Island and to utilise prison labour in the construction of the breakwater. The people of the town, however, had objected and that intention had been abandoned. A few years ago the borough council decided to obtain the area as a park reserve, and the Government, after retaining a few sections for its use, agreed to hand it over. Mr. Wilson paid a tribute to the work of Mr. S. G. Smith, ex-M.P., in obtaining the transfer, quoting from a letter sent to Mr. Smith by the borough council eulogising his assistance in that direction.

In the park they had a park that would be unrivalled, he ventured to say, by any in New Plymouth. There was room for a motor drive, there was an area that must become a football and cricket ground, while it did not require a great effort to visualise croquet and tennis lawns and a lake in the park, so admirably was the area adapted for these. When they remembered what Kawaroa and Western Parks were like a few years ago, they would be able to appreciate what could be done at the Ngamotu Park. Mr. Wilson referred to the policy of the council in handing the reserves over to the care of local committees, and after paying tributes to the work of the Ngamotu committee, and especially that of Mr. W. J. Honeyfield, formally opened the handsome set of gates at the entrance to the park.

Following an inspection of the park, when the magnificent view to be obtained from the hill top was made apparent, the visitors were entertained at a sumptuous afternoon tea by the ladies of Moturoa in the school. Opportunity was also taken by the committee of the presence of a number of representative citizens to urge upon them the needs of Moturoa and the potentialities of the district. Referring to observations made by Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. C. Parker regarding lights, the Pioneer Road and water supply, Mr. Wilson said that the making of Pioneer Road and the laying on of water were bound up with the laying out of the new railway yards at the port. Both of these works must be attended to and that in the near future, for with the new railway yards and the freezing works there Pioneer Road would become an important road. Lighting would also be considered.

In the evening an enjoyable concert was held in the Moturoa School, which was kindly lent for the occasion. The function was well attended and the Domain committee wish to heartily thank all those who contributed to the excellent programme provided. The performers were: Mr. and Mrs. Giles, Miss D. Loveridge, Mr. Papakura, Mr. Driver, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Lion, Miss Walker and Miss Pitheaitley, Misses Greenwood and Martin played the accompaniments. After the concert a dance was held, the music being provided by Misses Quickfall and Luney and Mr. McKay.