

NGAMOTU DOMAIN

Official Opening

MANY PEOPLE PRESENT.

A large number of people assembled at the Ngamotu Domain on Saturday afternoon for the official opening which was performed by the Mayor (Mr. F. E. Wilson), and spent a pleasant afternoon. The visitors were loud in their praise of the surroundings and were very pleased with the magnificent view afforded from the hill-top.

The official opening took place at the gates. Besides the Mayor, those present included the Mayoress, representatives of local bodies and members of the domain committee.

Mr. Wilson said the ground around them was happily serving a very different purpose to what was originally intended, for it had once been set aside as a prison reserve and it had even been suggested that prison labour should be used in the construction of the Breakwater. The people of New Plymouth objected, however, and the reserve was later set aside for other purposes. The Borough Council determined to secure part of the land as a public reserve, and owing to the efforts of Mr. S. G. Smith, their wish had been realised. The area was given as a site for a school, post office and police station. He thought those present would agree with him that it was one of the best sites in the borough for a reserve, and, if developed along the right lines, it would soon approach the standard of the other New Plymouth parks. Ample ground was available for recreation, and he hoped to live to see tennis courts and a football ground on the reserve. The domain committee would always have the sympathy and co-operation of the Borough Council. He appealed to those present to see that some forward move was made each season, and specially mentioned the services of Mr. W. J. Honeyfield, whom he knew had devoted practically all his spare time to the laying out and improvement of the domain.

A bouquet was then presented to Mrs. Wilson on behalf of the domain committee by a little girl, and the group at the gates was photographed.

After being shown over the reserve the visitors were entertained at afternoon tea in the Moturoa School, where Mr. W. H. Fitzpatrick extended a hearty welcome to all the guests. He said they would proceed with the good work which had been started, and he returned the thanks of the committee to all who had rendered assistance. With such surroundings as they had in the reserve, it should be easy to inculcate high ideals. They were both anxious and willing to push the reserve ahead. They wished to have an opportunity of building up Moturoa, and as they had greater potentialities than other parts of New Plymouth, the work of developing the locality was a matter of urgency. They desired equal facilities with other progressive parts of the town, and in this connection appealed for the assistance of the Borough Council. They hoped later to have a light at the entrance to the domain and also to have the water connected. It would be their endeavour to pull together in harmony and push the locality into the position it should occupy.

Mr. Honeyfield said that what had been accomplished was due in a very large measure to the enterprising efforts of the committee and also to the generosity of the Moturoa people, who had never refused donations.

Mr. Parker, speaking on behalf of the works committee, said they were very optimistic regarding the future of the domain, and he considered their end of the town should be studied. The domain was one of the finest works that had been entered into by the people of Moturoa, and within twelve months something very definite had been accomplished. He referred to the outstanding feature of the domain, its commanding view, and said that with a little thought and a little skilled labour the now unsightly stone quarry on the face of the hill could be made a thing of beauty. He pictured the erection of a fine shelter and refreshment booth on the site, which, covered with a mass of greenery, would make a nice retreat for people who wished to spend an hour or two in comparative quietness. Shrubs could be planted in the foreground and the appearance of the face of the hill entirely altered. He said the committee were highly honoured with the presence of the Mayor, Councillors and Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, M.P., and S. G. Smith, and he thanked them for their assistance in the past, trusting that their interest would be sustained in the future. He said he could not mention the work of Mr. Honeyfield without referring to Mrs. Honeyfield, who had been just as staunch a supporter and worker as her husband.

In replying, Mr. Wilson thanked the ladies for their hospitality and said it gave him great pleasure to be present. He took a personal interest in the work and he thought the plan of suggested improvements was to be commended. The borough council had not been unmindful nor neglectful of the interests of Moturoa, but for many years had been held up by the indecision of the Railway Department, which only recently had agreed definitely on the areas it would require for its works. Their scheme would entail the shifting of the road in places, and for several years the council's policy had been to acquire pieces of land along the proposed new road route for widening purposes. Consequently the council had hesitated to spend money on conveniences that would probably have to be removed later. As regarded the request for a light at the entrance to the domain, he advised them to approach the council in February next when the provision of lights in various parts of the borough would be considered. The water supply was a

great problem to the council, which had spent £10,000 recently in increasing the supply, and the demand was becoming too great for the council to meet. Much closer settled places than Pioneer Road were without water. It might seem that they had to wait a long time for what they wanted, but he asked them to consider what had been done in the last few years, and they would see how rapidly the town was progressing. He hoped to live to see the domain as it should be; and in conclusion said: "I hope to see Mr. Fitzpatrick kick off in the first football match."

Mr. Fitzpatrick: "I intend to."

Mr. S. G. Smith explained how much the people of Moturoa owed to Mr. G. H. Bullard; the Commissioner of Crown Lands, who had enabled the reserve to be set aside for its present purpose. Mr. Bullard had always been fully alive to the value of a park at Moturoa and had paid careful attention to their representations, with the result that the Government was prevailed upon to allow the reserve to be developed as a park. He agreed with Mr. Wilson that, after all, great progress had been made at Moturoa, despite the lack of facilities, and the district could be congratulated on its success in establishing the Moturoa School in face of the opposition that was raised. He said the optimism of the residents was justified, and he hoped to add further to his congratulations in the near future.

Mr. Bellringer congratulated the committee on the work they had accomplished. New Plymouth was fortunate with regard to its reserves and parks, each of which had its own particular advantage. He had obtained fine views from many places, but he would go so far as to say that the Ngamotu Domain and Western Park shared equally the honour of having one of the most magnificent views in the world. He predicted a complete transformation at Moturoa within four or five years, and referred to the fact that the £30,000 a year being paid out in wages by the Harbour Board was likely to be doubled in the near future.

Mr. T. C. List also spoke and eulogised the work done by Mr. Honeyfield. They had always to think of the rapid expansion of the town, and should never neglect an opportunity of increasing their reserves. The people would not be discharging their duty if they did not retain their present reserves and strive for additional parks. He wished the committee every success in the laudable work they had undertaken.

Afternoon tea was available in the Moturoa School throughout the afternoon for a very moderate charge. The ladies' committee in charge of the arrangements was as follows:—Mesdames W. J. Honeyfield, W. W. Thomson, W. Jones, W. Quickfall, Bremner, Parker and Fitzpatrick. An enjoyable musical programme was provided by the Citizens' Band, who are to be thanked for their services.

A largely attended social and dance was held in the Moturoa School in the evening. Items were contributed by Mesdames Giles, Martin and Lion, Misses D. Loveridge, Pithcaithley and Walker, and Messrs. Giles, Papakura and Driver. The accompaniments were played by Misses Greenwood and Martin. The music for the dancing was provided by Misses Quickfall and Luney and Mr. M'Kay, and the evening made a pleasant termination to a happy and important occasion.

ENTERTAINMENTS

"THE PEOPLE'S"

LAST NIGHT OF "THE WHEEL."

A William Fox production "The Wheel," the film version of John Galsworthy's stage success was shown on Saturday at the People's Theatre, Harrison Ford and Claire Adams play the leading roles, with other important parts entrusted to Mahlon Hamilton, Margaret Livingston, Clara Horton, David Torrance, and George Harris. In this picture the lure of gambling in its darker and lighter sides is revealed. The supporting programme includes a two reel comedy entitled "The Brainless Horseman," and a Fox News reel. The programme shows again to-night. Admission prices at the People's Theatre are: Stalls 6d, dress circle 1s 8d. The programme for to-morrow and Wednesday at the People's Theatre is headed by "The Lullaby," a five reel feature, starring Jane Novak.

EVERYBODY'S.

"A WOMAN'S FAITH."

Percy Marmont, famous for his portrayal in "If Winter Comes" is co-starred with Alma Rubens in the Universal Jewel production which commences a three night season at Everybody's Theatre this evening. "A Woman's Faith" is the screen adaptation of "Miracle," the famous novel by Clarence Budington Kelland, which ran as a serial in the Ladies' Home Journal. It is an impressive screen play full of drama and pathos with just enough touch of comedy here and there to relieve its tense situations. The principal action takes place in the woods of Northern Canada and in the Church of St. Anne de Beauport, the famous Canadian shrine that is yearly visited by thousands of devout pilgrims or hundreds of tourists who have been attracted to it merely by the mysticism that surrounds it. The supporting cast includes Hughie Mack, Zasu Pitts, Andre de Berger, Senaro Gravina, Rose Rosanova, Calvin Roberts and William H. Turner. The eleventh of the "Telephone Girl" comedy series, will be the principal supporting film. Box plans for the season are now open at Collier's.

Lane's
EMULSION
"BODY BUILDER"