



INGLEWOOD COUNTY

Meeting of Council

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The county engineer (Mr. C. Clarke) reported for the month as follows:— East Riding.—Some 50 cubic yards of metal have been spread on the Antawa Road. R. Zimmermann has made a beginning with his two contracts on the Otara Road, and already has approximately 25 chains of metal laid. Given good weather he should complete the work in six weeks. South Riding.—Rugby Road has been re-surfaced over all the weaker portions of its length, the work being completed early in the month. Metal from the Mangonui pit has been dumped on the Salisbury Road, Mangotea, Rakapiko and Tairiki Roads. The Power Board are doing considerable carting over the Tairiki Road at the present time, and provision should be made to have more metal in readiness for any damage which may occur. Some repair metal has been dumped on Norfolk Road.

BETTING CASES

Complaint Against Procedure

When the cases were called against C. W. Anstford and Wm. E. Smyth in the Magistrate's Court on Wednesday in which charges were laid under the Gaming Act, Mr. A. A. Bennett, who appeared for the defendants, said arrangements had been made for an adjournment until Wednesday next. He stated, however, that since the arrest of the defendants on the major offence of bookmaking, upon which they were entitled to trial by jury, several summary charges had been laid against them, and he protested against the prosecution proceeding with the minor offences 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 made inquiries in other parts of the Dominion and from what he had learned it seemed the course proposed by the police was unprejudiced. In order to prove the charge of bookmaking, the prosecution would have to prove the necessary acts which constituted the offence of bookmaking, and if these separate acts which constituted the minor offences were proceeded with the proceeding would nullify their privilege of trial by jury. Such trial was one of the most jealously guarded rights of the constitution, and he submitted the court should strain against the possibility of the defendants losing the benefit of that privilege, and do nothing that would embarrass the defendants. The process, he suggested, of hearing the indictable offence first would in no way prejudice the prosecution.

Detective Meiklejohn, who was in charge of the prosecution, said the course proposed to be followed was the same that was frequently adopted in Auckland. It was true that objections had been taken to it, but those objections had been set aside. On one occasion a writ of prohibition had been issued on him and the case came before the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court, but it was dismissed, the Chief Justice saying that it was not the province of the Supreme Court to dictate to a Magistrate's Court the order in which it should conduct its business. What he proposed to do upon his instructions was to proceed with the summary charges and offer no evidence on the major charges. Mr. Bennett said this was an extraordinary proceeding. It amounted to an admission that the police could not prove the combination of acts necessary to establish a charge of bookmaking, but that they would proceed on the charges alleging the separate acts. He suggested it was an attempt to avoid a trial by jury. In view of the detective's statement he thought the charge should be immediately withdrawn. The action of the police in arresting these men on the major charge had resulted in the information being widely published through this district, and now they admitted they were not able to substantiate it. The Magistrate (Mr. R. W. Tate) said the matter at present was simply an application for an adjournment until next Wednesday, and he saw no objection to that and granted the application. Mr. Bennett said that there was a probability that he might be engaged in the Supreme Court next week, and he asked if that was the case would the court further adjourn the hearing. The Magistrate suggested that the matter should be arranged between counsel and the prosecution. Mr. Bennett then asked that as the principal charges were not being proceeded with the men should be released without bail, but the Magistrate declined to do this, and admitted the defendants to bail as previously fixed.

Fourteen ratrapers 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 Durham Road and 300 yards for the Dudley Road, and tenders will be called for the work on the Maketara 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 works, 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 houses each month, and that amount 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 unless the houses were completed 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. Guldford.—The matter was left in the hands of the engineer.

BRITISH TRADE In Australia and New Zealand

MIR. DALTON INTERVIEWED

(By Telegraph—Own Correspondent)

AUCKLAND, March 9.—The importance of the New Zealand and Australian markets to British industry was stressed by Mr. R. W. Dalton, senior British Trade Commissioner in Australia, who arrived from Sydney by the Manungu to take charge of the New Zealand post pending the arrival in April of Mr. J. B. Beale, the Commissioner appointed from Vancouver to succeed Mr. Noel Elmshie.

Mr. Dalton explained that, in view of the importance of New Zealand to British exporters the Imperial Government was anxious that the Dominion should not be neglected during the period between Mr. Elmshie's departure and the arrival of Mr. Beale. The people of New Zealand and of Australia, too, hardly realised how important these countries were to British trade. As a matter of fact Australia was Britain's second best customer, he said, and in both New Zealand and Australia the trade was so very highly organised and specialised 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 bad debts were quite unnecessary.

In answer to a question as to whether British trade was increasing in Australia, Mr. Dalton said he felt bound to confess that it showed a tendency at present to decline. He explained that Australia's protective policy had the effect of limiting trade in British goods rather than in foreign goods, not because there was a desire for that, for the reverse was actually the case, but it was British industries that expanded mostly with certain of the established and growing Australian industries. In actual practice he had found that British manufacturers were showing a very live desire to look after their Australian and New Zealand trade themselves.

Mr. Dalton said he saw nothing really inimical to British trade in the development of industry in Australia, because the experience of the past showed that in such cases the market became capable of more absorption. In the meantime, however, import trade in Australia was somewhat disorganised and for the British manufacturer it was a matter of adapting himself to the new type of demand.

The recent increase in the sale of British motor cars in Australia and New Zealand was referred to with some satisfaction by Mr. Dalton, who said that while the impression had been created that British cars were not suited to colonial conditions, he had always held the view that the price of these cars as against that of American makes was the obstacle to wider sale and popularity. He felt that this view had now been justified because, with the steady reduction in the prices of British cars along with a maintenance of quality, sales were steadily mounting and he had no fears for the future of British cars in these countries. He mentioned incidentally that within the last six months 6000 British cars had been imported to Australia, a very great increase on the sales of only a few years ago.

OBITUARY

MR. J. B. ROY.

The death occurred at New Plymouth on Monday night of Mr. John Barton Roy. The late Mr. Roy, who was 71 years of age, had resided in New Plymouth for many years and gained the respect and esteem of a very wide circle of friends.

He was born at Trentham in 1855 and was educated at the Otago Boys' High School and Nelson College. In 1876, when residing in Nelson, he was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court and later moved to Hawera, where he practised his profession for a short period. In 1879 he commenced a practice in New Plymouth and subsequently entered into a partnership with Mr. William Halse, which continued until the latter's death. In 1903 Mr. Roy entered into partnership with Mr. F. E. Wilson, the present Mayor of New Plymouth. Five years later this 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 retirement in 1922.

Despite the calls of a large practice the late Mr. Roy always manifested a keen and practical interest in public affairs. After serving as a councillor for three years, he was elected Mayor of the town on December 19, 1886, holding the position until the end of the following year. In 1893 he was again elected Mayor, and held office until 1897, when he was defeated by Mr. E. Dockrill, and retired thenceforth from any active part in public affairs.

He also took a particularly keen interest in education. In 1889, when the control of the New Plymouth High School was taken out of the hands of the Education Board and vested in a special board of governors, Mr. Roy became a member of the first board and occupied the honorary position of treasurer, and for five years he was chairman of the board. When the Hon. T. K. Kelly, another member of the board, discovered that a large area of land at Opaku, on the Whenuakura River, had been set aside by Parliament in 1872 for providing revenue for university education in Taranaki, Mr. Roy joined with him in a serious investigation of the position of the fund (which stood then at £15,000), and it was largely due to the perseverance of Mr. Roy (who was subsequently aided in this matter by Mr. N. K. MacDiarmid) that the attempts of the Wanganui Education Board and Victoria College to seize this endowment were frustrated, and the money kept for Taranaki and a portion of the income used for Taranaki scholarships to the university.

Mr. Roy was legal adviser to a number of local bodies in Taranaki and was solicitor for the State Advances Office from the inception of the scheme in the early nineties. He was a past president of the Taranaki Law Society.

Mr. Roy had always taken a keen interest in the oil industry and was one of the directors on the advisory board of one of the English companies. He married Miss Halse, daughter of his first partner in business, Mr. William Halse. Mrs. Roy passed away a year or two ago and Mr. Roy is survived by three daughters, Mesdames Will. Kelly (Awakino), G. S. Millar (New Plymouth) and Miss Roy (New Plymouth), and one son, Mr. Ian Roy (New Plymouth).

MR. SAMUEL BROOKES.

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 Wellington, in the County of Somerset, England, in 1848, and was therefore 78 years of age. He came out to New Zealand over 50 years ago in the sailing ship Walkato 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 (Frankton) and P. Brookes (Wellington), and four daughters, Miss A. Brookes (New Plymouth), Mrs. W. H. Pellew (New Plymouth), Mrs. C. Bond (New Plymouth), and Mrs. M. M. Arthur (Frankton).