

## Obituary

We record with profound regret the passing of four good friends of the Society. They will be missed but their influence remains.

### PETER FURSE, TAURANGA

The late Mr. Furse passed away suddenly while writing a letter at his desk on July 21st. A very kindly man, fond of children, he came to New Zealand as a child and subsequently entered the school-teaching profession, serving under the Otago, Nelson, and Auckland Education Boards. As a lover of native bush and a foundation member of the Tauranga Section of the Forest and Bird Protection Society, it was natural that his enthusiasm should influence the children he taught and that they would acquire an intense interest in our native plants and birds. In the issues of our magazine for November 1950 and August 1955 we published pictures supplied by Mr. Furse of the plantation of native trees established by the children of Greerton School. The President of the Society visited the plantation recently and found the growth of the natives quite astonishing, a fine memorial to a fine man.

### WILLIAM FRASER, WHANGAREI

William Fraser, foundation member of the Society and a Vice-President since 1927, passed to a higher call on 13th September, in his 83rd year. Born at Auckland, he went to live at Maungatapere ten years later and on leaving school took up civil engineering. He became county engineer in 1908 and engineer to the Whangarei Harbour Board about 1920. In that capacity he was responsible for the reclamation of hundreds of acres of land. He was responsible also for having Hen and Chicken and the Poor Knights Islands as well as the Whangarei Harbour itself declared sanctuaries, besides having large areas of bush at the Whangarei Heads set aside as reserves.

Mr. Fraser was a noted authority on many aspects of Maori life and his passing is mourned by a large circle of Maori people. He represented the Forest and Bird Protection Society on the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary Advisory Committee.

### T. L. WARD, WELLINGTON

After a long period of indifferent health Mr. T. L. Ward passed away last December. A valued member of the Society for many years, he was Honorary Treasurer from 1947 until 1957 and ex officio a member of the N.Z. Executive. He was esteemed not only for his professional knowledge as an accountant but also because of his fine general character.

### MRS. J. J. REICH, WELLINGTON

A gracious lady well known in Wellington for her support of worth-while causes, Mrs. J. J. Reich, recently passed on. She was a foundation member of the Wellington Y.W.C.A. and for many years was a member of St. Andrew's Church. She was also a member of the Pioneer Club, a supporter of both the Hutt and Wellington Horticultural Societies, and for many years was a member of our Society.

Native birds were always one of her special interests. Both she and her late husband used to attract birds, including tuis and waxeyes, to their garden by planting suitable food-bearing trees and by placing honey-sweetened water or ripe fruit in suitable places. Other interests were needlework and painting in water colours.

### Exotics Versus Natural Wealth

The following appeared, under the above heading, as the second leader in the Wellington *Dominion* of 14th January, and is published here by courtesy of the Editor of that newspaper:—

The Minister of Forests, Mr. Gerard, has acted with commendable promptitude in cancelling a project to cut out a gorge of bush off the Napier-Taupo Road, inhabited by kiwis, which his department proposed to develop as a pine forest. His action followed protests from the Hawke's Bay section of the Forest and Bird Society and local residents. The Minister says the Forest Service did not know of the kiwis' existence. There is a great deal of native bush and it may be a long job to map every part of it for wild life, but the best efforts to do so are expected.

(Continued on page 19)