

Our Illustrations

THE NORTH AUCKLAND MAIN TRUNK LINE.

WHICH SHALL BE THE ROUTE?

Now that the Main Trunk line South of Auckland has been completed, and has been finally taken over by the Railway Department, the Public Works Department is turning its attention to the Northern end of the line with renewed vigour. For many years the line has been open to Helensville, and gradually the rails have advanced northwards till now they reach Wellsford, a spot sixty-nine miles north of Auckland city. The ceremony of opening this section was performed last week by the Minister for Public Works, the Hon. R. McKenzie, who has been travelling all over the country, and familiarising himself with the lay of the land. There is some difference of opinion as to the route the line should now take, and rival deputations have been waiting on the Minister all along the line.

Our special correspondent, who is travelling with the Minister, explains the position concisely. Writing from Maungaturoto, he says the difference so far had been parochial. He continues: "In an address at that township the Minister made it patent that the difference of opinion up to that point was merely a flea bite compared with the great interests involved beyond McCarrroll's gap; therefore, in order to obtain the concise position of affairs, I have made inquiries from an authoritative source, and find that the crux of the matter centres really in the question of whether it should pass eastward or westward of Tangihua Range. There are two points definitely fixed by natural conditions through which a central main-trunk line must pass. These are McCarrroll's gap on the south and the Mangakahia Gorge, some 30 miles from Kaitiaki, on the north. In a direct line between the two points is the Tangihua Range, one of the highest mountains north of Auckland; therefore, it must be obvious that a curve will be necessary in adopting either suggested route to connect these points. Thirty years ago, when Mr. Knorpe's survey party contoured the country, the land to eastward was open, and to some extent settled. Whangarei was then the only important settlement north, and was the first objective point of a North Auckland railway, and it has been pointed out that the country of Maungakarama was favourable to the extension of the line to the North. The question of railway continuation, etc., to the extreme North had lain dormant during intervening years until recently. In the meantime the immense valley of the Northern Wairoa River, which at the time of Mr. Knorpe's exploration was unsettled and was covered by vast unbroken forest, and the nature of the soil covered by the bush never having been ascertained.

During recent years a very rapid extension of settlement had resulted in almost all of the forests being converted into farmlands, a large portion of which has proved to be equal in fertility to the finest grazing land of the South. Manifestly the occupants of this vast fertile area consider themselves entitled to have the question of route of the Main Trunk Railway line passing through this part of the peninsula to be entirely reconsidered with the light of present-day developments. Many arguments can be adduced by either party which will prove that the construction of the railway by either route will be a profitable undertaking. The point at issue is not a local one, as the lines are never widely diverged, but is one very naturally affecting the interests of the settlers of the Far North, and involves such national questions as the securing of the best express rail route, and the best line from a strategic point of view in the defence of the Dominion.

It might also be pointed out that the island is only about 40 miles in extreme width on the northern peninsula, so that whatever route is decided the settlers on either side will be within twenty miles of the railway at extreme points. Speaking at a banquet tendered by the Dargaville Borough Council, the

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, went down the Main Trunk line to Wellington on Monday. They are returning to England to the Ionic.

Mrs. and Miss Erson, of Parnell, returned to Auckland last week, after a delightful holiday spent in Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

Mr. H. Eyre Kenny, S.M. at Nelson, has received intimation (says the "Post") that he will be retired from the service on superannuation as from 31st March.

Mr. Stanley Kingsbury, formerly of the Brisbane "Courier," and now associate-editor of the South China "Daily News," Hongkong, is visiting Wellington.

Mr. Cartwright-Brown, the well-known Hawke's Bay landowner, who has been on a visit to England, returned to the Dominion by the Turakina.

Staff-Captain Colvin, the new editor of the New Zealand "War Cry," arrived in Wellington from Sydney by the Ulmaroa last week.

The supplementary list of Senior Civil Service examination passes includes the names of Geoffrey H. J. Melliss (Auckland) and George G. Wilson (Auckland) as having passed in six subjects.

Mr. P. S. Faulkner, the well-known New South Wales squatter, arrived in New Zealand by the s.s. Marero from Sydney last week and went on to Rotorua.

Mr. E. Maxwell has been elected acting chairman of the New Plymouth Harbour Board during the absence in England of Mr. J. B. Connell, and Mr. J. Ward acting-treasurer during Mr. King's absence.

Mrs. and Miss Gilles, Parnell, who are at present paying farewell visits in the South, leave New Zealand on Thursday next, in the Ionic, Miss Williamson accompanying.

Mr. E. D. Bell has taken his seat on the Council of Victoria College, Wellington, as the representative of the Professorial Board, in place of his brother, Mr. H. D. Bell, K.C., who has resigned.

A London Press Association cable announces that Professor Stirling, Professor of Physiology at the Adelaide University, has had the degree of Doctor of Science conferred upon him by the Cambridge University.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ball, of Mount Eden, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. W. Ball, jun., and Mrs. Wright, are leaving Auckland next week for an extensive tour in England and on the Continent.

Prof. and Mrs. Seager have gone down the Main Trunk line to Wellington, where Prof. Seager will attend the Rhodes' scholarship committee meeting. They will spend a few days at Palmerston North, and other towns on the way.

Dr. Dryden Glendinning, an old Napier High School boy, has obtained his F.R.C.S. degree in London, and has been awarded the Cancer Research Scholarship at the Middlesex Hospital, London.

Mr. T. F. Leiby, who has been in charge of the Auckland Government Poultry Depot for the past year, has resigned from his position, and will be replaced by Mr. Burke, of Dunedin.

The Grand Hotel is quite full of Wellington people at present, who have come to Auckland to be present at Miss Una Williams' wedding. She will be married from Cintra on Tuesday.

The Hon. T. Mackenzie, according to the unanimous request of the Dunedin Board of Education, has agreed to continue a member of the Board until the expiry of his term a few months hence.

The Hon. R. McKenzie, Minister for Public Works, who will visit Gisborne shortly on railway matters, will be accorded a civic function, and during his stay he will be asked to formally open the new Waikohu bridge.

Mr. Charles Rae, assistant railway guard, on the occasion of his transference to Morrinsville, was tendered a complimentary smoke social by local railway servants at Omeiha last week, when a gold watch was presented him as a mark of esteem.

His Excellency the Governor intends to visit the Urewera Country next month, and will probably visit Auckland afterwards. In April Lord Plunket, it is understood, will pay an official visit to the Cook and other islands.

Mr. A. J. McKay, who has been manager of the Geraldine branch of the Bank of New South Wales for the past ten years, has received notice of his appointment to the management of the bank at Tangorua, New South Wales.

The selection committee in Tasmania has chosen Mr. Frank Bathurst Edwards as the Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 1909. During his school career, which began at the State school at Stanley (Tasmania), Mr. Edwards won several

scholarships, ultimately obtaining his LL.B. degree.

A farewell social to the Rev. E. H. Wyatt, locum tenens of the Rev. A. F. Smith, and welcoming back the incumbent of the parish, was held at St. John the Baptist's Parish Hall, Northcote. A purse of sovereigns was presented to Mr. Wyatt as a mark of esteem, and Mr. Hunt, on behalf of the congregation, welcomed back Mr. Smith.

Mr. R. Pitchford was honoured at an enthusiastic gathering at Waite's Hall, Mt. Eden, Auckland, prior to his departure from New Zealand on a trip to the Old Country. Mr. F. Farrell, on behalf of the assembled company, presented him with a very handsome travelling bag as a mark of the high esteem with which he was held in the district.

Mr. Cyril Jackson, son of Mr. F. W. Jackson, manager of the Union Steam Ship Company, at Sydney, died recently at a private hospital after a brief illness. Mr. Jackson was operated on for appendicitis, but succumbed. The deceased, who was a member of the staff of the German-Australian Steamship Company, was highly esteemed.

The following officers have been appointed for the Auckland Chamber of Commerce: — President, Mr. B. Kent; vice-president, Mr. M. M. McCalkent; vice-president, Mr. M. M. McCalkent; council, Messrs. L. J. Bagnall, E. Anderson, S. A. Longuet, L. M. Myers, A. B. Robertson, J. M. Mennie, A. Burt, J. H. Upton, and G. I. Peacocke.

Last week Mr. J. H. Field, for many years treasurer of the Lodge Alexandra P.A.F. Society of Auckland, and who is now about to leave on an extended tour of the Mother Country and Australia, was bidden "bon voyage" by the brethren of his lodge. As a mark of esteem in which Bro. Field is held, Bro. H. A. Seabrook, W.G.M., on behalf of the members, presented him with a Past Master's collar, and with a handsome pair of field glasses, the gift of the members of the Grand Executive Council.

At the last meeting of the Victoria College Council, John Allan Thomson, B.Sc. (N.Z.), B.A. (Oxon.), the first New Zealand Rhodes scholar, and a son of Mr. G. M. Thomson, M.P. for Dunedin North, was appointed lecturer in geology and demonstrator in biology. Mr. Thomson is at present lecturer in geology at St. John's College, Oxford. F. P. Wilson, M.A., was appointed lecturer in economics, and he has now handed in his resignation as a member of the College Council.

Mr. F. E. Howarth leaves Auckland on March 22nd for Calcutta, per P. and O. boat from Sydney.

Mr. G. Thomson, M.P. for Dunedin North, was entertained by his supporters on Tuesday week, and presented with a purse of sovereigns, the sum running into three figures.

Mr. O. Paterson, of Messrs. John Burns and Co., and Mrs. Robertson, leave Auckland by the Wimmera on Monday for Sydney, to join the Ortona there for England.

Mr. P. W. Bolland, who left Auckland for a lengthy tour of Europe and America on Monday, was presented last week with a handsome piece of plate by his employers.

Mr. and Miss de Montalk left Auckland last week by the Main Trunk line en route to London, via Sydney, Suez, and Southern Europe. It is their intention to spend some time in Spain.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Parnesse, of Honolulu, left Auckland on Monday for Rotorua, with the intention of making an eight week stay there as a finish to their round the world tour.

The Hon. D. Bado, Minister for Public Health, has made an alteration in his travelling movements, and, instead of proceeding to Auckland from Napier, as was intended, will return to Wellington for a few days, after which he will leave for the Northern city.

Sir Graham Hammond-Graeme, Bart., who arrived at Sydney last week by the R.M.S. China, has been ordered from England on account of his health, and is on his way to New Zealand for deer-shooting and fishing. Sir Graham Graeme was formerly in the 10th Lancers, and served in the Abyssinian war of 1867-8. His home is at Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight.

The Hon. J. A. Millar was tendered a public reception in the Dunedin Garrison Hall last week in honour of his appointment to the position of Minister for Railways. Speeches of a highly complimentary nature were made by Dr. Findlay, Hon. T. Mackenzie, Hon. A. T. Paul, the Mayor (Mr. McDonald), Messrs. Witty and Davey, M.P.'s T. W. Woodhouse, and D. McPherson. There was a large and enthusiastic attendance.

There was a pleasant function in the newsroom of the "Auckland Star" last week, when the editor (Mr. T. W. Leys) made a presentation to the retiring editor of the "Graphic" (Mr. E. W. G. Rathbone) from the complete literary, commercial and mechanical staffs of both papers. Mr. Rathbone has been associated with these journals for twenty years, and retires from his present position because of ill-health. Mr. Leys referred to Mr. Rathbone's high attainments as a journalist, and the universal esteem in which he was held by every department of the office with which his duties had in any way brought him in contact. It was the heartiest wish of everyone present that Mr. Rathbone early in his holiday would be restored to a full measure of health, and would have a most enjoyable tour abroad. Three hearty cheers were given for Mr. Rathbone before he feelingly responded. The presentation took the form of a handsome New Zealand-made and initialled travelling rug, a travelling case, and an umbrella. A further evidence of the departing journalist's popularity was a large gathering at the Commercial Hotel on Friday afternoon. Mr. Rathbone was presented with a handsomely illuminated address by the Auckland branch of the New Zealand Institute of Journalists. The presentation was made by Mr. W. Sholto Douglas, president of the branch, on behalf of its members. The health of the recipient, proposed by Mr. T. W. Leys, was drunk with enthusiasm. Mr. Rathbone left by Monday night's express to catch the Ionic at Wellington, proceeding direct to England.

SHARE LIST.

Paid-up.	Liability per share.	Company	Last Quotation.
£ s. d.	£		£ s. d.
		BANKS—	
3 6 3	50	New Zealand	8 16 0
2 10 0	45	National	1 3 0
40 0 0	40	Australasia	104 0 0
25 0 0	50	Union of Australia	60 0 0
28 0 0	20	New South Wales	45 10 0
		INSURANCE—	
2 0 0	8	New Zealand, Limited	3 16 0
0 10 0	Unid	National	1 2 0
0 10 0	14	South British	2 11 0
0 15 0	94	Standard	1 3 6
		FINANCIAL—	
0 10 0	50	N.Z. Loan & Mercantile	0 4 0
1 0 0	Nil	N.Z. and River Plate	1 15 6
		COAL—	
0 7 6	2/6	Hikurangi	0 17 3
0 10 0	Nil	Northern Coal Co., Ltd.	1 15 0
1 0 0	Nil	Tairāpiti Mines	0 18 6
0 10 0	Nil	Drury Brick & Pottery	1 2 0
1 0 0	Nil	Westport Prof.	19 0
3 10 0	14	Westport	6 7 6
		GAS—	
5 0 0	Nil	Auckland (10/- paid)	1 0 6
5 0 0	Nil	Auckland	14 7 6
1 0 0	Nil	Manurewa	9 15 0
1 0 0	Nil	Peliding	1 10 0
1 0 0	Nil	Gisborne	2 10 0
1 0 0	Nil	Hamilton	2 10 0
5 0 0	Nil	Napier	3 7 6
2 0 0	8	Plymouth	8 8 0
5 0 0	Nil	Thames	8 8 0
10 0 0	10	Wellington	16 12 6
6 5 0	42	Palmerston North	11 5 0
4 10 0	42	Palmerston North	7 10 0
		SHIPPING—	
1 0 0	Nil	Union Steamship	1 15 0
8 0 0	Nil	New Zealand Shipping	6 10 0
0 14 6	Nil	Northern S.S. Co.	0 14 6
0 7 0	7/6	Devoport Ferry	0 6 2
1 0 0	Nil	Devoport Ferry	1 10 6
		WOOLLEN—	
4 0 0	1	Wellington	3 2 6
5 0 0	Nil	Kaipoi	1 1 6
3 10 0	14	Mosgiel	2 17 0
		TIMBER—	
1 13 0	Nil	K.T. Co.	1 12 6
15 0 0	Nil	Leysland-O'Brien Co.	0 14 3
0 13 0	Nil	Mountain Rimu Co.	2 1 0
1 0 0	Nil	Parker-Lamb	1 6 0
		MEAT	
7 10 0	24	Canterbury	8 0 0
10 0 0	Nil	Christchurch	10 15 0
5 0 0	Nil	Wellington Meat Ex.	6 0 0
4 0 0	24	Gear	3 10 0
2 12 4	24	Gear	2 10 0
1 0 0	Nil	Wanganui	5 2 0
4 0 0	Nil	Wanganui	5 2 0
		MISCELLANEOUS—	
1 0 0	Nil	Auckland Elec. T. Co.	1 1 0
1 0 0	Nil	New Zealand Drug	2 8 0
1 0 0	Nil	Sharland & Co.	1 0 0
0 14 0	6/-	Union Oil	1 0 0
20 0 0	Nil	Colonial Sugar	42 10 0
1 0 0	Nil	N.Z. Paper Mills	1 2 0
1 0 0	Nil	N.Z. Portland Cement	1 15 6
1 0 0	Nil	Wilson's	1 15 6
5 0 0	Nil	Dunghy Rope	5 1 0
4 0 0	Nil	Ward & Co.	1 2 0