

**NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.**  
**WAIKATO AGRICULTURAL SHOW**  
**AT KIRIKIRIROA.**  
**4th AND 5th NOVEMBER, 1903.**

Cheap Excursion Tickets, available for return up to December 5th will be issued to Kirikiriroa and Hamilton from any station on Sat. 4th, and 5th November, at the rate of 2d per mile First class and 1d per mile Second class (minimum 4, and 27 respectively). Mileage counted one way only.

**THURSDAY, 5th NOVEMBER.**

A Special Train will leave Auckland at 6.45 a.m., Newmarket 6.57, Penrose 7.17, Drury 8.0, Mercer 8.26, Huntly 10.30, Ngauruhia 10.54, arriving Kirikiriroa 11.55, returning leaving Kirikiriroa at 6 p.m., Huntly 6.30, Mercer 7.35, arriving Auckland 9.55 p.m.

This train will not stop at Westfield or Runciman.

The 8.30 a.m. train from Te Awamutu will run through to Kirikiriroa.

A Special Train will leave Kirikiriroa at 8 p.m., Frankton 8.29, arriving Te Kuiti 8.5 p.m.

A Special Train will leave Kirikiriroa at 6 p.m., arriving Cambridge 6.55 p.m.

The 7.5 a.m. train from Rotoura to Frankton, and the 11.20 a.m. train from Frankton to Rotoura will not run. The north and south express trains will stop at Kirikiriroa to put down passengers.

A special train will leave Rotoura at 6.35 a.m., Putaruru 8.45, Morrinsville 11.5, Kirikiriroa arrive 11.50, and Frankton 12.25 p.m.

Return Special will leave Kirikiriroa at 4.30 p.m., Morrinsville 5.29, Putaruru 7.40 p.m., arriving Rotoura 10 p.m.

A special train will leave Thames at 7.25 a.m., Paeroa 8.45, Te Aroha 9.30, Morrinsville 10.15, arriving Kirikiriroa 11.0, and Frankton 11.50 a.m. Return Special will leave Frankton at 4.50 p.m., Kirikiriroa 5.20 p.m., Te Aroha 7.5, Paeroa 7.59, arriving Thames 8.55 p.m.

For further particulars see posters and handbills.

BY ORDER.



**GOLF NOTES.**

(By Stoney Dead.)

Some months ago I wrote on the subject of the perfect scenery and views that one enjoys when playing at One Tree Hill. At the same time I promised to write at some future date about the course as a golf course. That time has now arrived. I am afraid my remarks will not be palatable to those who had most to do with the laying-out of the course. But as I think, so I write.

The first point is that nothing on earth, even the expenditure of thousands of pounds, could ever have made One Tree Hill anything like a good golf course. And this is so by reason of the soil and the grass that grows on it. Disguise it as you like, there is only one term to apply to such a course, and that is that it is a mud course pure and simple. It is a rich volcanic soil, through which undoubtedly rain water percolates quicker than through pure clay, but just quicker and no more. If there has been very wet weather One Tree Hill is just as spongy and impossible (from a golfing point of view) as Green Lane was. It has the advantage of drying itself quicker.

Then as this soil is so rich it consequently grows grass luxuriantly, and no amount of cutting will keep the grass within bounds in the spring-time. The only time of the year when the grass is anything like in proper condition is in the autumn, when the rain has forced up a sward of green grass. In winter-time, when most of our play is done, the grass is so weak that the ball lies right into the ground, and a clean lie is almost unknown. In the spring-time the ball is certainly kept off the ground, but so reposes that only one-half is above the surrounding grass, however close it may be cut. In summer-time the lie is better, but then again, the ball lies right into the ground, with the disadvantage of very hard ground. It is a maxim that a lie is all right however hard the ground may be, provided the ball lies clean. A golf-course made of Neuchatel asphalt would be a better course than One Tree Hill under any conditions; in fact, one has the condition of asphalt when playing on a frozen seaside course. Again, it is a golf lie to play out of cups, but never out of slinging grass. An English amateur or professional championship would never be played at One Tree Hill even if the course were properly laid out. The second point is that the course has not been properly laid out. Before analysing our own course it is necessary to establish what a first-class course is. There are two sine qua non of a championship course, and they are that there must be at least 10 two full shots holes, and that the total length of the course is over 6000 yards. A two full shots hole is one that is slightly under the distance of two full shots for a powerful player, and just what an average player can comfortably reach in two. If it were taken as the full length of the two shots of the big driver the hole would cease to be a good one even for him when there was any wind against. He gets his advantage when the wind is against at a property-laid-out hole, for his weaker opponent cannot quite reach the green with his second. Of the remaining 8 holes, 3 at least should be reachable in one, three holes should be nearly three full shots, and only two a drive and a pitch. As I have already said, 10 is a minimum for two full shots holes, and consequently if there are more (as most good courses have) the other holes are varied. When a hole is a drive and a pitch there should be peculiar difficulties in the drive and in the pitch, such as to make the pitch a reasonably difficult one if the tee shot has been good, and almost impossible if it has not been good.

Now to analyse our course. Let us count, as broadly as we can, the two full-shot holes. There is the 1st, 2nd, 6th, 8th, 15th. By no possible means can one count more. To go over the course from 1st to 15th, it reads: 1st, two full shots; 2nd, two full shots; 3rd, drive and pitch; 4th, two and a pitch; 5th, one shot; 6th, two full shots; 7th, two and a pitch; 8th, two full shots; 9th, drive and pitch; 10th, one shot; 11th, one shot; 12th, drive and pitch; 13th, one shot; 14th, drive and pitch; 15th, two full shots; 16th, two and a pitch; 17th, one and a pitch; 18th, two and a pitch. Perhaps the 4th, 16th and 18th ought to be called three-shot holes, but they are very bare ones. So one finds there are five two full-shot holes, six holes drives and a pitch, four holes one-shot holes and three three-shot holes. Thus we have only five two full-shot holes, whereas we ought to have 10; we have six of the variety that ought only to sport two, or at the outside 3, in the 18; four short holes and three long ones. The six drives and pitches are the blemishes of the course. The third, for instance, is an absolutely bad hole in itself. To a Vardon it would be a matter of absolute indifference when his tee-shot lay, for he would just bang his second on the hillside behind the hole. A Taylor would not even attempt to pitch his mashie-shot for a three. He would do the hanging. This is not golf. What special feature of difficulty is there in the approaches at the 7th, the 9th, the 14th and the 17th? An iron, a cleek or a brassie shot may just lie as well as the perfect played pitch. Where people get wrong about this subject of two full-shot holes is this—they say why so exclude the mashie? But a round of 18 two full-shot holes does not exclude the mashie, except to an absolute automaton. Let them think how often they use their mashies at our five full-shot holes. If they are playing well enough to be on the green each time in two they don't use the mashie; but how often does it happen? The whole point in laying out a green is a true appreciation of what is true golf—which is that if one player plays a shot below par against his opponent, who plays absolute par, the former must lose that hole unless he plays a shot above par (i.e., getting down in two from off the green).

The total length of the course is some 5700 yards, as a liberal estimate, and, as I have already said, no course is first-class unless 6100 yards.

The ladies had quite a tournament week of it last week. Three New Plymouth ladies have been up trying their strength against our ladies. The first match was played on Wednesday, when a teams' match was played. The Auckland Club did not put into the field its best team, but played players of equal handicaps to the New Plymouth ladies. A very good game resulted in a win for Auckland by 10 up. Miss Stevenson, the New Plymouth lady champion, played very well against Miss Lewis. She was only 3 down, and this, too, when she could not have known the course. Miss J. Draper beat Mrs Edwards by 5 holes, and Miss J. Richmond beat Miss Hawkins by 2 holes. On Thursday Mrs W. R. Bloomfield presented a prize for competition among all-comers. It was played against bogey, 13 holes, and Miss Lewis won with 5 down. The returns

were not good, the next to Miss Lewis being 7 down. This is pretty bad in 13 holes. On Friday the New Plymouth ladies very gracefully presented a prize. This was 14 holes medal play. Miss Ethna Pierce won with the good return of 89—14—75. Miss Stevenson (New Plymouth) did the best, scratch, with 80. In the afternoon an approaching and putting (combined) competition took place for a prize presented by Mrs Lewis. The distances were 80, 50 and 25 yards. In the first round Miss Stevenson, Mrs Bloomfield and Miss Lewis tied with 9. In the second round Miss Stevenson went out, and the other two again halved at 9. A third time they halved, and at the fourth Miss Lewis won by her last putt. Nothing could be closer. Miss Stevenson's approaching was much admired, and if she had putted as well as the others she would have won.

**LAWN TENNIS.**

**CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING.**

The championship meeting of the New Zealand Lawn Tennis Association is to be held this year at Napier, and Mr Barry Keating, the secretary, is making every preparation to ensure the success of the gathering. The dates fixed are December 26, 28, 29 and 30, so no doubt many tennis enthusiasts who take their holidays at that time of the year, will take a run down to Napier to see the meeting.

**AUCKLAND CLUB'S OPENING.**

There was a large attendance of players and friends at the Auckland Club's lawn on Saturday afternoon, when the season was opened. The President (Mr Jackson) formally declared the course opened, and play was indicated in during the afternoon. Considerable improvements have been made in the courts during the winter months.

**EDEN AND EPSOM CLUB'S OPENING.**

The pretty lawns of the Eden and Epsom Club presented a very attractive appearance on Saturday afternoon, the opening day of the season. The green superintendent (Mr Horace Walker) had the lawns in splendid order, and there was a large attendance of members and visitors. The Rev. E. J. McFarland, one of the vice-presidents, made the opening speech, and referred to the lawns as no doubt the best in New Zealand, and Mrs Heather performed the opening ceremony by serving two balls to the court. Matches were then commenced, some of the play being of a high standard for an open day. Afternoon tea was dispensed during the afternoon, and a band played several enjoyable selections.

**CRICKET.**

**"WILLOW THE KING"**

**CRICKET SEASON OPENED.**

**FINE WEATHER AND FAST WICKETS.**

The cricket season was opened at Auckland on Saturday, when the championship match of the New Districts was played. During the week previous had been apprehensive about the weather, but Saturday was a fine summer's day, and the season was opened under the best conditions. On an evening of that which the Domain are generally slow, but the winds of last week had dried the ground, and players were faced with fast pitches. The ground was in the best of form, and it is a pleasure to note that the attendance of the public was very satisfactory. The scoring in the senior matches was perhaps not so high as one would have expected on the excellent pitches, which had to be remembered, of course, that it was the first day, and players had not yet struck form. The chief interest centred in the Grafton-Eden contest. Grafton's strong batting combination, which had scored 112, and Eden responded with 88 for the loss of three wickets. Parsell, who are in many quarters favourites for the senior championship, were expected to score an easy eleven over Eden, but the latter team, after starting disastrously, total 112, and Parsell have 58, no less than four wickets

**EXAMINATION FOR MINE MANAGERS' AND BATTERY SUPERINTENDENTS' CERTIFICATES.**

Mines Department, Wellington, 1st Oct., 1903.

An Examination of Candidates for Certificates as First and Second class Mine Managers and Battery Superintendents, under "The Mining Act, 1894," and First and Second class Battery Superintendents under "The Coal Mines Act, 1891," will be held on TUESDAY, the 26th January, 1904, and following days, at places to be hereafter named. All applications, with necessary certificates, and fee of £1, must be addressed to "The Secretary of the Board of Examiners under the Mining Act (or Coal Mines Act), Wellington," and must be received before the 26th December, or they will not be dealt with until the Examination in 1904. Forms of application may be obtained at School of Mines, Thames, Waikato, and Coromandel, also from Inspector of Mines, Thames, Westport, and Danedin.

T. H. HAMER,

Secretary to the Board of Examiners. (NOTE.—No candidate will be permitted to present himself for examination unless he holds an authority from the Secretary, stating that his certificate of service has been accepted by the Board.)

**G. W. ALLSOP, A.R.I.B.A.**

(Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects),

**ARCHITECT**

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